

**INSIDE: TOP 10 MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES**

# HISTORY

**REVEALED**

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE  
ISSUE 12 // JANUARY 2015 // £3.99



## BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

WWII hell in the Pacific

## ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Secrets of the empire builder

# 1066

## THE NORMAN CONQUEST

How William the Conqueror won England, from the Battle of Hastings to the Domesday Book

**PLUS**

**HEROES OF THE VICTORIA CROSS**

KON-TIKI EXPEDITION

**BLOODY SUNDAY**

ELVIS PRESLEY

**TAJ MAHAL**



**UNCOVERING ANCIENT EGYPT**

**DEBTORS' PRISONS**  
The horrific reality of Britain's 18th-century gaols

**THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE**





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# Welcome



When I first saw **the Bayeux Tapestry**, at around the age of 10, the idea of recording historical events as a kind of long-form comic book seemed to make a lot of sense to me. Essentially, it was **like Asterix, only without the puns**. This was a tale of nobles putting

William, the rightful King of England, on the throne after slaying Harold at the Battle of Hastings, thanks to an arrow through the eye. In reality, **1066 was a complex time**, following years of confusion, and leading to decades of fierce fighting. The story begins on page 26.

Elsewhere, we've got another packed issue lined up for you. We uncover the mysteries of Ancient Egypt (p48), as revealed by a set of **stereoscopic photographs taken over 100 years ago**. There's the remarkable story of Thor Heyerdahl, a Norwegian who could barely swim, yet cobbled together a raft and **set out across the Pacific Ocean in order to prove a point** (p64). And then we examine one of the most horrific battles of World War II – one that has **inspired a number of Hollywood movies** – the Battle of Iwo Jima (p78).



We've also got the first part in a new series – the **A to Z of History**, in which we'll be taking a sideways glance through history's pages, from anarchy to zealots. If anyone knows **a more bizarre act of warfare** than our Acropolis story (p98), please do write in and let us know! Enjoy the issue!

*Paul*

**Paul McGuinness**  
Editor

**Don't miss our February issue, on sale 2 February**

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## ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...



## THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

**68**

Number of years the papacy was based in Avignon, southern France, in the 14th century. See page 98.

**10,160**

Height in metres that a Serbian flight attendant plummeted when her plane broke apart in mid-air in 1972. She survived. See page 19.

**2**

Pubs in Huddersfield station – “the most splendid in England”, wrote John Betjeman. See page 92.





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The Kon-Tiki Expedition  
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Amelia Earhart and  
Agatha Christie - just two  
of history's mysterious  
disappearances

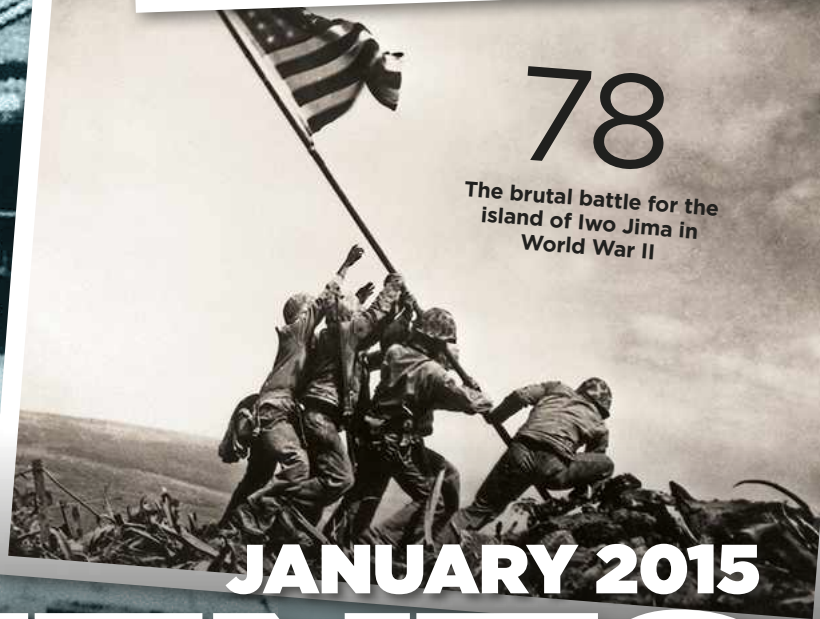
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JANUARY 2015

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subscription offers on  
page 24





## READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

### FOUND AT LAST?

I enjoyed reading about the legend of King Arthur (Christmas 2014), but I'm sure I read somewhere this year that they had found that King Arthur was from Wigan. Did I imagine this?

**Aidan Fearon,**  
Manchester

the award-winning English writer and historian Graham Robb proposed that important Celtic routes met at the site of Brookfield Road, in Standish, near Wigan. Robb joked that this could be the location of Camelot, and a number of newspapers took

**"I'm sure I read somewhere that they had found that King Arthur was from Wigan."**

### Editor replies:

It's certainly an interesting notion, and not one without support. In this year's book *The Ancient Paths: Discovering the Lost Map of Celtic Europe*,

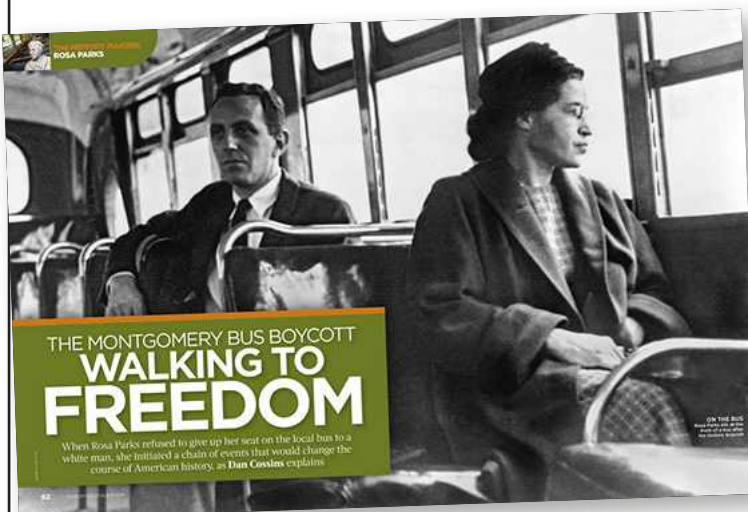
him a little too literally. To clarify his position, Robb explained: "It is like theorising you have found Hogwarts – you can't do it because it never existed in the first place."

### MY HERO

(Re: Rosa Parks, Christmas 2014) One woman's quiet protest that would start a chain of events, which meant that thousands of ordinary people, by refusing to ride the bus in Montgomery, Alabama, would change the

course of history! Rosa Parks is my heroine, and it was so nice to see her story in your magazine. She still inspires others around the world to use peaceful means to change the world!

**Eve Arnold,**  
Shropshire



### ROLE MODEL

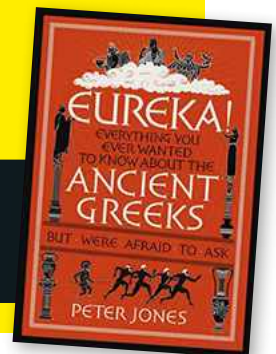
Rosa Parks is an inspiration to many, including reader Eve Arnold

**LETTER OF THE MONTH**



**FACT & FICTION**  
Camelot wasn't really in modern-day Wigan

**Aidan Fearon wins Eureka! Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Ancient Greeks But Were Afraid to Ask by Peter Jones. Published by Atlantic Books, worth £19.99. This tome tells the Greeks' epic tale, from the beautiful to the bonkers.**



**f Yet again, another brilliant issue – have read it cover to cover, brilliant articles, but my favourite was the article about the gunfight at the Ok Corral – didn't know Wyatt Earp used to be a pimp!**  
**Ronnie Hancox**

December 2014) ever were Leonardo da Vinci's – "I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have."

**Michelle Jenner,**  
via email

### TRUE CHRISTMAS

I found the cloth Christmas card, sent by a Boer War soldier, (Q&A, Christmas 2014), to be a very touching item. I have often wondered about Christmas in the trenches for the poor soldiers of World War I, but my thoughts had never before turned to the Boer War troops. It is an extraordinary article, and makes one consider the true meaning of Christmas. I do hope that the card-writer, Sam, made it home to his beloved Alice.

**Robert Gilpatrick,**  
Hertfordshire

**t Another fantastic issue so glad I took out subscription would not like to miss a single one well written as always**  
**@donaldsteele58**

### A FUNNY FÜHRER?

I eagerly await my new copy of *History Revealed* to come through the letter box every month.

I just want to praise the editorial team in producing another fantastic issue, the content is well mixed and really diverse which makes for an interesting read every time.

As always the articles are very insightful and full of great facts, so I always come away a bit

### TORTURED ARTIST

Surely the most inappropriate last words (Famous Last Words,



more knowledgeable and able to say that I learnt something new again each month.

I thought Valkyrie, the Plot to Kill Hitler (December 2014) was a fascinating article. I was shocked to read that he arrested 7,000 suspected people and that he executed 5,000 in connection with the plot. What did made me chuckle was the idea that Hitler had a slight sense of humour, which I never thought possible, with his quote: "Hitler later described his buttocks as being 'as blue as a baboon's behind'".

**Neil Westburg,**  
via email

## FESTIVE FACTS

I wanted to write in to say that I really enjoyed the Christmas issue. From *It's A Wonderful Life* via the histories of the Christmas tree and Santa Claus, to the WWI truce on 25 December – all of the stories were festive but very informative, without being over the top or too schmalzy (see the Sainsbury's seasonal advert!).

**Jack Lloyd,**  
Devon

**Editor replies:** Thanks Jack. That Sainsbury's Christmas advertisement certainly got people talking – not least on our Facebook page – where opinion was divided between touching tribute and shameless exploitation. Regardless of on



## HAPPY HITLER

The idea that Hitler had a sense of humour amused one reader

**Just discovered yr magazine. Excellent read. Full of interesting facts, clear easy and fun to read! Going thru yr back issues @KevGibraltar**

which side of that particular debate you sit, it was surely one of the most poignant moments of a brutal war.

## A MUST SEE

It was lovely to see Beverley Minster featured in your latest issue (How to Visit, Christmas 2014). My dad grew up in Beverley and spent many happy hours in the Minster. He very proudly remembers the occasions when he sang there with his choir.

The church is such a beautiful building, it's an absolute must-see whenever I visit Yorkshire. It's bigger than most cathedrals

**Any magazine with 'Royal bottom wiper' on the top has to be worth reading @GeneralJules**

in England and took over 200 years to build. I've never seen the drummer carving you mentioned (I'm going to make sure I see it next time I'm there!) but my favourite part of the Minster is the Frith Stool, which dates from Saxon times before the Norman invasion. People could escape arrest in Beverley if they became a servant of the Church, and the stool was used when they made their case to a representative of the Crown.

**John Ferguson,**  
via email

**Took out a subscription today. Looking forward to seeing what articles you have for all your readers in the New Year. Elaine Robinson**

## CROSSWORD N° 9 WINNERS

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 9 are:

**Nicola Fowler,** Gwynedd  
**Marian Roberts,** Greater Manchester  
**C Deacy,** Cheshire

Well done! You have each won a copy of **A History of the World in 1,000 Objects**, £25. To test your wits this month, turn to page 96.

## GET IN TOUCH

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## GOODWILL TO ALL MEN

The Christmas truce of WWI was a hot topic last year

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**IMMEDIATE MEDIA**







# TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY







SNAPSHOT

## 1979 A BIN-LOSE SITUATION

The enduring image of the public service strikes of the winter of 1978-79 are the mounds of uncollected rubbish, like this pile in London's Gerrard Street.

Strikes began when 15,000 workers at a Ford factory walked out demanding higher pay, which was the catalyst for widespread action by the trade unions. Britain had seen nothing on this scale since the General Strike of 1926. As rubbish collectors were part of the strike, cities were littered with mountains of rotting waste, leading to infestations of rats and revolting smells. No wonder that this time is remembered as the 'Winter of Discontent'. Labour Prime Minister James Callaghan lost a vote of confidence over the strikes and later that year, Margaret Thatcher was voted into power.





**SNAPSHOT**

# 1935 HIKE TO THE HENG

A lone gentleman has tramped to Salisbury Plain to see Britain's foremost prehistoric monument, Stonehenge.

The turnstiles were, in relation to Stonehenge's 5,000-year history, relatively new, but had already caused a scene. As thousands of Druids converged on the site for the 1925 solstice, anger spread at having to pay to enter and soon, the crowd was tearing down the gates.

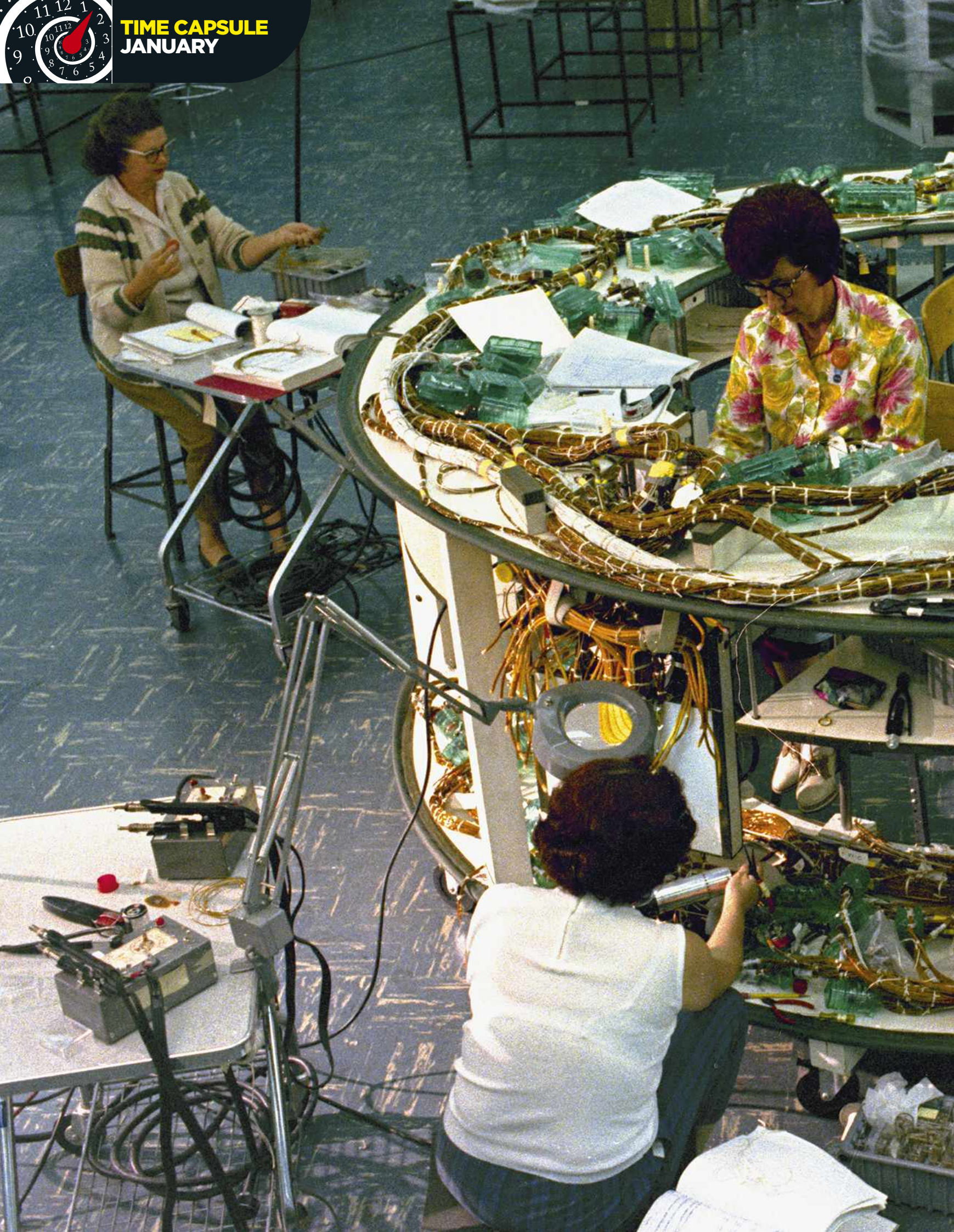








**TIME CAPSULE**  
**JANUARY**







**SNAPSHOT**

# 1966 DOWN TO THE WIRE

With meticulous precision, employees of North American Aviation toil away on the components of a NASA module, to be used in the Apollo program.

The work of the aerospace company proved vital to American success in the Space Race, as they were responsible for helping develop the Saturn V rockets, as well as various Apollo command and service modules. A year after this photo was taken, however, NAA faced severe criticism after the Apollo 1 tragedy, when the command module burst into flames during a test run, killing the three astronauts inside.





## “I READ THE NEWS TODAY...”

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **January**

### WARNING SIGNS

The tank leaked long before the accident. People living near it used to fill up cans of the sweetener and children scraped it on to sticks to make syrupy lollipops.

### PIE TIN IN THE SKY

#### 1957 FLINGING OFF THE LINE

For the Wham-O toy company, January 1957 was when one of their most popular toys rolled off the manufacturing line, but the origin of the **Frisbee** flies back to the 1870s. William Frisbie's Pie Company in Connecticut was a popular spot for students to meet – not for the food, but to hurl the **empty pie tins** to each other bellowing “Frisbie!” By the 1950s, Fred Morrison had streamlined his plastic version, the ‘Pluto Platter’, which he **sold to Wham-O**. But William Frisbie's legacy was too strong and the name was changed.

### MOLASSES, MO PROBLEMS

#### 1919 A STICKY SITUATION

It was lunchtime, 15 January 1919, when a 15-metre-high storage tank burst on Boston's waterfront, spewing a flood of **2.3 million gallons** of molasses on the neighbourhood. Changes in temperature may have caused the brown sweetener to ferment and expand, resulting in the explosion. The 35mph sugary tidal wave ruptured steel girders, knocked buildings off their foundations and **killed 21 people**. The clean up took weeks, requiring chisels to chip off congealing syrup. Boston reeked of molasses for months.

### WHAT A PILE OF CRAPPER

#### 1863 POTTY PIONEER

Plumber and sanitary-ware specialist Thomas Crapper is often erroneously lauded as the inventor of the flushing toilet. That idea has to be flushed away, but he did patent **the one-piece pedestal flushing toilet** in 1863. The popularity of Crapper's toilets saw him secure **royal approval** in the 1880s, when his company was hired to do the plumbing for Sandringham House, the residence of Edward, Prince of Wales.

### ALCHEMISTS ANONYMOUS

#### 1404 GOLD BANNED

Alchemy – transforming base metals into gold or silver – may sound like a subject at Hogwarts, but Henry IV took it seriously enough to ban the practice. The fear was that if alchemists succeeded, they would **upset the natural order** of things. For centuries, alchemists had to work **in secret** until the law was repealed in 1689, thanks in part to the esteemed chemist, and one of Isaac Newton's influences, Robert Boyle.



One of Thomas Crapper's major inventions was the ballcock, to fill toilet cisterns.







## YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY 1931 WHAT A GUY!

When Australian aviator Guy Menzies took off from Sydney on 7 January 1931, his family and friends believed he was flying across Australia to Perth. It was only when 21-year-old Guy was airborne that they opened **letters he had left** informing them of his true destination: New Zealand.

After a journey lasting some **11 hours and 45 minutes**, and through rough, gusty weather, Guy crossed the New Zealand coast. He was way off course, however, and crash-landed his Southern Cross Junior in a swamp. Apart from wounded pride, he emerged from his **tipped over plane** unhurt. The local farmers wouldn't believe he had come from Australia until he revealed a bag for a sandwich bought from Sydney airport.



## TALE OF THE TOP HAT TERROR 1797 MAD HATTER

On 15 January, English salesman John Hetherington was fined £500 for breach of peace – for wearing a top hat. So unused to the headgear, so the story goes, **women swooned, children screamed and dogs yelped** at the sight of it. The top hat, it was claimed, was “calculated to frighten timid people”.

## RING IN THE NEW YEAR 1985 WISE CALL

The first mobile phone call in the UK was a strange publicity event. To show off their new network, Vodafone chose **comedy legend Ernie Wise** to make the call to their head office on New Year's Day 1985. But why he was dressed in Dickensian costume and riding a 19th-century mail coach is anyone's guess.



## “...OH BOY” January events that changed the world

### 16 JANUARY 27 BC SUN RISES ON ROME

Gaius Octavius founds the Roman Empire and is made the first Emperor, under the name Augustus.

### 7 JANUARY 1558 ENGLAND OUT OF EUROPE

England loses its last territory in France when it is ousted from Calais.

### 31 JANUARY 1606 TREASON AND PLOT

Gunpowder Plotter Guy Fawkes dies moments before his execution.

### 21 JANUARY 1793 VIVE LA RÉVOLUTION!

Found guilty of high treason, French King Louis XVI is executed by guillotine.

### 10 JANUARY 1920 UNITED WE STAND

In the aftermath of World War I, the League of Nations is founded.

### 26 JANUARY 1926 TURN ON THE TV

Scottish inventor John Logie Baird demonstrates the television.

### 30 JANUARY 1968 VIOLENCE IN VIETNAM

The Viet Cong launch the Tet Offensive, one of the largest campaigns of the Vietnam War.

## AND FINALLY...



To atone for the horrific persecution of ‘witches’ in the **Salem Witch Trials**, the people of Massachusetts spent all of 14 January 1697 fasting and praying for forgiveness.





# 1856 THE FIRST VICTORIA CROSS

On 29th January 1856, Queen Victoria signed a Royal Warrant to bring into existence a new medal – one that would bear her name and become synonymous with acts of extreme courage

 AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY  
 FORFEITED



## 1854

### NUMBER ONE

The first action to merit the award of the Victoria Cross was by Royal Navy officer Charles Lucas. While serving in the Crimean War in 1854, he risked his life when he rushed across the deck of his ship to hurl an enemy shell out to sea.

## 1857

### SIEGE HEROES

The largest number of Victoria Crosses awarded for a single day's actions was 24, honouring the actions of soldiers in the second Relief of Lucknow on 16 November 1857, during the Indian Mutiny.

## 1857 & 1860

### FEARLESS YOUTHS

Two men share the honour of being the youngest recipient of the VC: Thomas Flinn, who fought during the Indian Mutiny, and Andrew Fitzgibbon, a medical orderly wounded in China. Both were 15 years and three months old.

## 1879

### REGIMENT REWARD

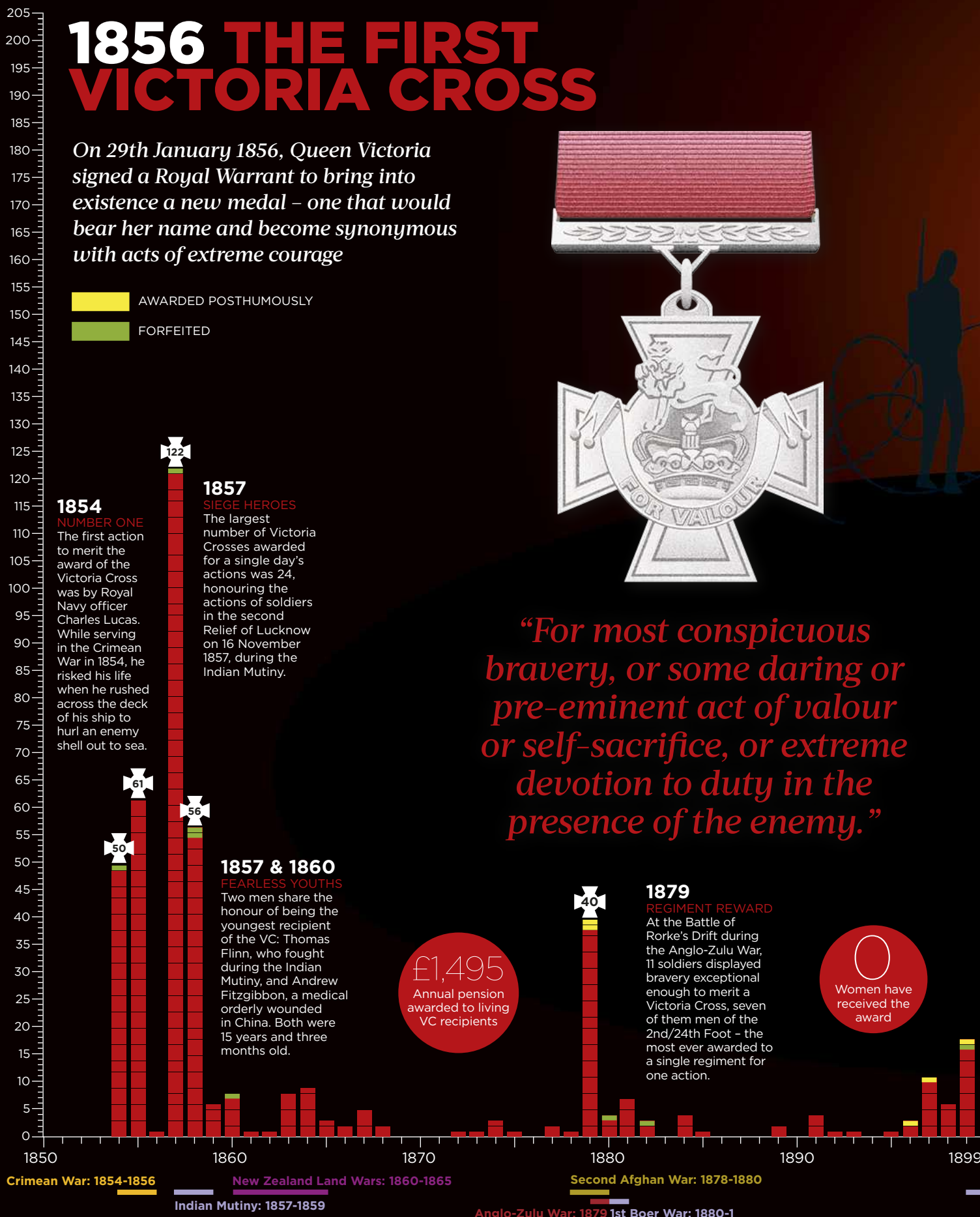
At the Battle of Rorke's Drift during the Anglo-Zulu War, 11 soldiers displayed bravery exceptional enough to merit a Victoria Cross, seven of them men of the 2nd/24th Foot – the most ever awarded to a single regiment for one action.

**£1,495**

Annual pension awarded to living VC recipients

**0**

Women have received the award





206

## MEDALS AND ORDERS OF HONOUR AND GALLANTRY

This selection shows the most significant decorations, with a brief outline of the criteria for which they're awarded. Most are awarded to military personnel only, while others can be bestowed on civilians, as indicated here.



**VICTORIA CROSS**  
Most conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy



**GEORGE CROSS**  
Most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger - military and civilians



**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER**  
Distinguished leadership - usually awarded only to senior ranks



**CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY CROSS**  
Conspicuous gallantry during active operations against the enemy



**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS**  
Exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy at sea



**MILITARY CROSS**  
Exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy on land



**DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**  
Exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy in the air



**GEORGE MEDAL**  
Civilian: acts of great bravery. Military: acts of great bravery not in presence of the enemy



**QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL**  
Civilian: exemplary bravery. Military: exemplary bravery not in the presence of the enemy.



**AIR FORCE CROSS**  
Exemplary gallantry in the air on non-active operations



**ELIZABETH CROSS**  
Awarded to next of kin of military personnel killed in action or as a result of a terrorist attack

### 1945 - PRESENT

Only 17 Victoria Crosses have been awarded since the end of World War II. This doesn't mean that soldiers are any less brave, nowadays, but rather that the nature of warfare has changed - soldiers rarely find themselves "in the face of the enemy" as is required by this particular award. In the past 70 years the George Cross, created in 1940, has been more commonly awarded. Sharing precedence with the Victoria Cross, it is granted for "acts of the greatest heroism or of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger" and can also be awarded to civilians.

#### GUN HO

Traditionally, every Victoria Cross medal is made using bronze from two Russian cannons captured during the Crimean War. However, modern research suggests that the metal has been obtained from a variety of sources - including Chinese cannons.

#### 1908

##### NAMED AND SHAMED

Eight recipients have been stripped of their Victoria Cross for crimes including assault, embezzlement and bigamy. The last was George Ravenhill, whose medal, won in 1899, was forfeited in 1908 after he was convicted of theft.

#### 1914

##### DOUBLE DUTY

The first double recipient was Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Martin-Leake. He was awarded his Victoria Cross for his actions of 8 February 1902 during the Boer War, for tending to a wounded man while under heavy fire, and received his Bar for similar actions in Belgium in 1914. Only two other men have received both VC and Bar: Noel Chavasse, another WWI hero, and Charles Upham of New Zealand, for bravery during WWII.

1,361

Number of times the VC has been awarded since 1856

£408,000

Record price paid at auction for a Victoria Cross

46

46

84

174

117

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

2nd Boer War: 1899-1902

World War I: 1914-1918

World War II: 1939-1945





# Daily Mirror

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DAILY SALE

3p Monday, January 31, 1972

No. 21,167

# ULSTER'S

# BLOODY SUNDAY



## THE LAST RITES

Kneeling in the road, a priest gives the last rites to a dying demonstrator... Picture by Stanley Matchett. More of his dramatic pictures—See Centre Pages.

### EYEWITNESS

Father Edward Daly, a curate in Derry, was with Jackie Duddy when he died. In the minutes after the massacre, he told the press that the soldiers **"just came in firing"**, there was no provocation whatsoever.

From JOE GORROD in Londonderry

**THIRTEEN** men were killed yesterday as Army paratroopers broke up a banned Civil Rights march in Londonderry.

Another twelve people—including two women and a child—were wounded by bullets when the Paras stormed into the Catholic Bog-side area.

The soldiers claimed last night that they opened fire when they came under sniper attack. They said they were arresting about fifty demonstrators who had been hurling stones at troops behind barricades.

Five soldiers were hurt in the fierce battle—three of them hit by stones and two burned by acid bombs.

### March

Eighteen demonstrators were taken to hospital with injuries that were not caused by bullets.

The marchers who died were aged between sixteen and forty.

Last night shocked Civil Rights leaders were calling the incident a massacre.

Bernadette Devlin, the Mid-Ulster MP who took part in the anti-internment march, said: "It was mass murder by the Army."

"This was our Sharpe-

ville, and we shall never forget it."

Miss Devlin was referring to the killing of sixty-seven Africans by South African police in 1960.

She claimed: "The troops shot up a peaceful meeting. Then they let loose with bloodthirsty gusto at anything that strayed into their sights."

"Let nobody say that they fired in retaliation."

Mr. John Hume, Londonderry's MP at Stormont, declared: "It was cold-blooded mass murder—another bloody Sunday."

And Mr. Ivan Cooper, MP for Mid-Derry, said: "The soldiers showed no mercy. I was shot at while waving a white flag. People

were falling all over the street."

There were immediate threats of revenge from the official IRA in Dublin, and the Provisional IRA in Londonderry.

A spokesman for the provisionals claimed: "At no time did any of our units open fire on the Army prior to the Army opening fire."

The shooting broke out as 12,000 demonstrators who had marched through the Bogside tried to pass barricades put up to stop them getting into the city centre.

Some of the marchers fought a forty-five-minute battle with troops before men of the 1st Battalion of the Parachute Regiment burst through the barricades and charged into the crowd to make arrests.

### Bodies

Minutes afterwards the first shots rang out.

The bodies of two men, claimed by the Army to have been firing at them, were recovered by troops.

A public inquiry into the shooting was demanded last night by Cardinal William Conway, Primate of All Ireland.

He said: "I have received a first-hand account from a priest who was present at the scene, and what I have heard is really shocking."

"An impartial and independent public inquiry is immediately called for, and I have telegraphed the British Prime Minister to this effect."

## 'SOLDIERS DIDN'T FIRE FIRST SHOT'

THE Army's Ulster chief claimed last night that his men did not "go in shooting" against yesterday's marchers in Londonderry.

"They did not fire until they were fired upon," said Major General Robert Ford, commander of land forces in the province.

He claimed that the dead "might not have been killed by our soldiers."

General Ford said in a

BBC TV interview that the paratroops' aim was to arrest hoodlums who had been attacking them for two hours.

As the soldiers went in, acid bombs were dropped from a block of flats and two of them were injured—one seriously.

At the same time gun-

Continued on Page Two



## RELIGIOUS TROUBLES

The marchers, led by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, were mostly **Roman Catholics** who felt increasingly persecuted by the Protestant authorities.

# YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **31 January 1972** the people of Northern Ireland come to terms with the events of Bloody Sunday, which caused 14 deaths and decades of enmity

## “UNJUSTIFIED AND UNJUSTIFIABLE”

**T**ensions were high in Derry-Londonderry on Sunday 30 January 1972. A march was planned against internment (detaining suspected terrorists without trial) but amid fears of violence, the British deployed the First Battalion, Parachute Regiment (1PARA) to the Northern Ireland city to prevent possible riots. At the start of the march at 2.50pm, no one could have expected how the day would end.

An hour in, the marchers were blocked by 1PARA's barricade. A handful of teenagers attempted to push through and began throwing stones at the troops, who responded with water cannons, rubber bullets and tear gas. Then, at 4.10pm, 1PARA clamped down and gunshots echoed through the streets.

In just 30 minutes, 13 marchers were dead. A 14th man died later from his injuries. The British army maintained they only opened fire after being shot at, although not one soldier was hurt, while many who were there have insisted ever since that the shooting was aimed at unarmed marchers. The first fatality, 17-year-old Jackie Duddy, was shot running away while Bernard McGuigan was waving a white handkerchief when gunned down.

Soon after the massacre, the controversial Widgery Tribunal cleared 1PARA of blame, causing dismay and bitterness. Following decades of mounting pressure for a renewed inquest of the events, the Saville Inquiry was established in 1998, but wouldn't conclude for another 12 years. In 2010, David Cameron described Bloody Sunday as “unjustified and unjustifiable”, confirming that the soldiers “lost control” and fired at innocent people. ☉

**DAY OF ARREST**  
The paratroopers made dozens of arrests in the hectic 30 minutes, many of them teenagers who had no connection to the IRA

### BRITISH BACKFIRE

The British army believed the march would be infiltrated by the paramilitary **Irish Republican Army (IRA)**, but, ironically, their violent clamp down on Bloody Sunday directly caused support for the IRA to soar.



## 1972 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

**19 JANUARY** The Anthem of Europe – set to the music of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* – is officially adopted as the **anthem of the Council of Europe**, and later the European Union.

**24 JANUARY** After more than 27 years, Japanese Sergeant **Shoichi Yokoi** is discovered in the jungle of Guam. He has been in hiding since American forces captured the island in World War II.

**26 JANUARY** When a plane breaks apart over Czechoslovakia, 22-year-old flight attendant Vesna Vulović **plummets over 10,000 metres but lives**. She remains in hospital for 16 months.





## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Elvis Presley bursts onto the scene amid frenzied excitement and controversy

# 1956 LONG LIVE THE 'KING OF ROCK AND ROLL'

*The year 1956 saw Elvis Presley rise from an unknown to the world's ultimate rock star, all beginning with his first television appearance...*

**F**ew people knew the name Elvis Presley at the start of 1956. For 18 months, he had toured the southern United States nonstop, thrilling audiences one venue at a time with his electrifying presence and unique rock'n'roll sound. But his first national television appearance sparked a meteoric transformation from small-time star to international sensation in a turbulent and contentious year.

### OPENING THE FLOODGATES

On 28 January 1956, a 21-year-old Elvis strolled to the microphone on *The Dorsey Brothers Stage Show* and launched into *Shake, Rattle & Roll*. By the time he began *I Got a Woman*, he had won over half the audience, while the other half were shocked at his gyrating hips and flirtatious style. Opinion may have been divided but one thing was certain: the floodgates opened and Elvis was soon embraced as the symbol of the emerging rock'n'roll genre.

His great success, however, was followed by controversy. Elvis's provocative performing style may seem tame to today's standards but it was unlike anything of the time. One review described Elvis as "unspeakably untalented and vulgar" and, much to his chagrin,

he picked up the handle 'Elvis the Pelvis'.

### HIGHS AND LOWS

Many loved Elvis, some hated him, but one man tried to change him. Steve Allen, who disliked modern music, booked Elvis on his show but staged a bizarre and humiliating act. On 1 July, Allen introduced the "New Elvis", before a visibly embarrassed Elvis in tails and bow tie shuffled on stage and sang *Hound Dog* to a top-hat-wearing Basset Hound.

Meanwhile, on the back of numerous hit singles and a debut album, Elvis's manager Colonel Parker arranged three appearances on *The Ed Sullivan Show* – America's most popular variety show whose host had declared Elvis "unfit for family viewing". The fee was stratospheric (\$50,000) but the money was worth it as Elvis's first show on 9 September was watched by 60 million people.

Elvis, now crowned the 'King of Rock and Roll', was still not immune to controversy, however. For his final *Ed Sullivan Show*, overly conservative censors stepped in and he was infamously shot from the waist up to hide his ever-swinging hips. 📍

### TOUR DE FORCE

In between his television appearances and time in the recording studio, Elvis kept to an exhausting tour schedule – including a run in Florida of **25 shows in just nine days**. The National Guard was deployed to some shows to control the fans.

### ADORING AUDIENCES

Elvis's unusual, provocative style on stage earned him legions of fans – as well as plenty of critics



### YOU AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A HOUND DOG

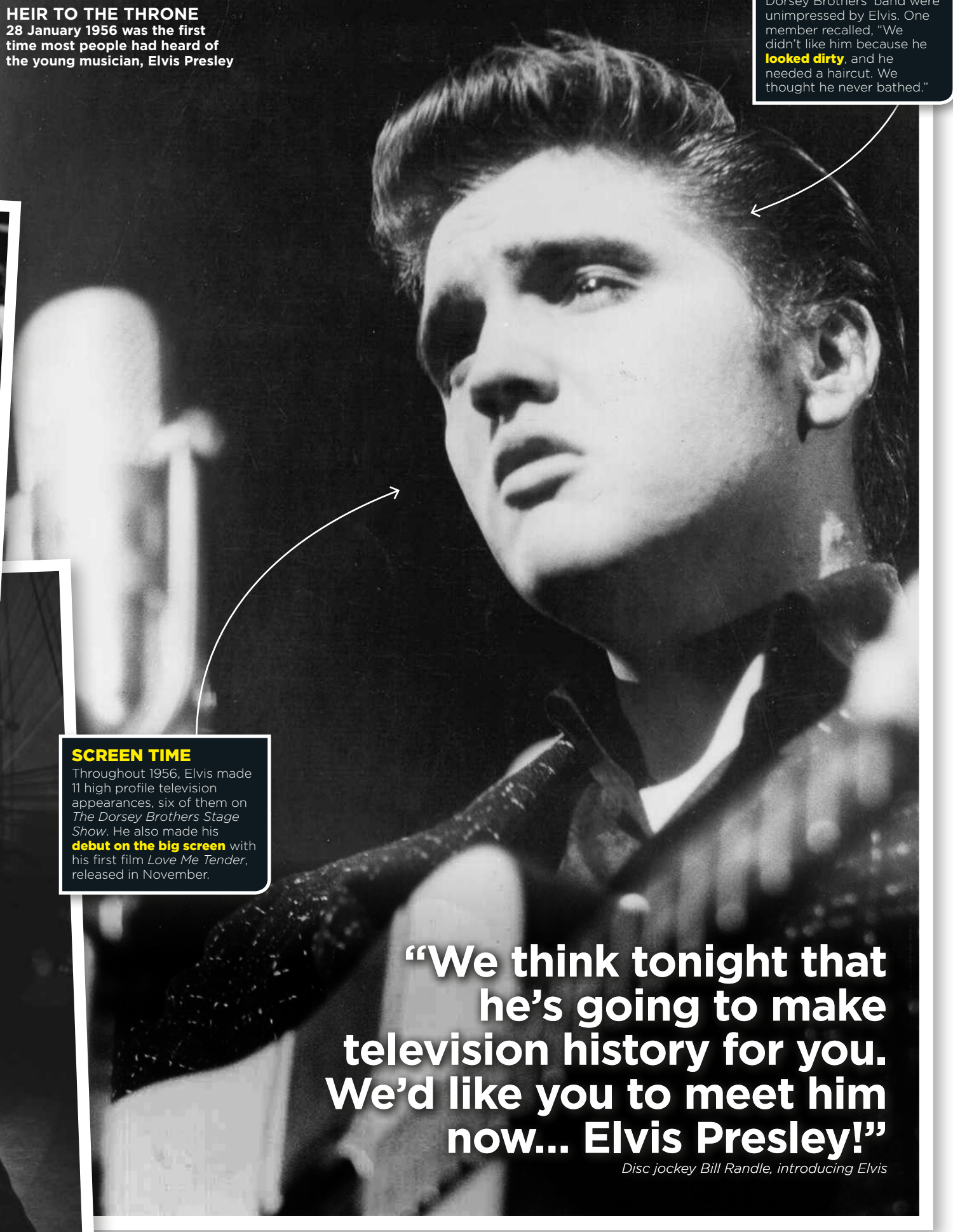
Despite the vitriol from Elvis's fans, some good came from his awkward duet with **Sherlock the basset hound**. The next day, Elvis spent hours recording *Hound Dog* and it went on to be one of his **biggest hits**.



### POOCH PERFORMANCE

Elvis described this strange serenading as his "most ridiculous performance"





**HEIR TO THE THRONE**  
28 January 1956 was the first  
time most people had heard of  
the young musician, Elvis Presley

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS**

During rehearsals, the  
Dorsey Brothers' band were  
unimpressed by Elvis. One  
member recalled, "We  
didn't like him because he  
**looked dirty**, and he  
needed a haircut. We  
thought he never bathed."

**SCREEN TIME**

Throughout 1956, Elvis made  
11 high profile television  
appearances, six of them on  
*The Dorsey Brothers Stage  
Show*. He also made his  
**debut on the big screen** with  
his first film *Love Me Tender*,  
released in November.

**"We think tonight that  
he's going to make  
television history for you.  
We'd like you to meet him  
now... Elvis Presley!"**

*Disc jockey Bill Randle, introducing Elvis*





## THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

The valiant **overland launch** of the Lynmouth lifeboat

### TRIED AND TRUE CREW

To celebrate the actions of the superhuman crew of the *Louisa*, a re-enactment of the overland launch took place on the **100th anniversary** – in daylight. Among the participants was John Pedder, grandson of Edward Pedder, who delivered the telegraph.

# 1899 LIFEBOAT CREW LAUNCHES COURAGEOUS NIGHT RESCUE MISSION

*On a stormy January evening, a distress call was sent alerting lifeboat crews of a ship caught in treacherous waters – what ensued was a daring and gruelling tale of heroism...*

**T**he weather on 12 January 1899 was atrocious across the west coast of England. Driving rain and blustering, gale-force winds created a maelstrom on the Bristol Channel while the coastal towns were being pummelled by crashing waves and thick spray.

Attempting to navigate the storm was a tug boat towing the *Forrest Hall*, a 1,900-ton, three-masted cargo ship on its way to the docks of Liverpool. Faced with battering wind and waves, the tow cable snapped, the tug was forced to sail away, and the *Forrest Hall* fell into trouble when its rudder was crushed. The ship seemed doomed to be dashed on the rocks off the North Devon coast, a few miles from the small village of Lynmouth.

### OVERLAND LAUNCH

Soon before 7pm, the owner of the Lynmouth Post Office, Edward Pedder, received an

urgent telegraph addressed to the lifeboat crew, alerting them of the imperilled ship. He immediately got the message into the hands of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's Jack Crocombe, the coxswain of Lynmouth's lifeboat, the *Louisa*, and the crew were mustered. Staring out at the squall, however, Crocombe and his second-in-command, George Richards, knew there was no chance of safely launching the *Louisa* from Lynmouth, so they came up with a daring, if arduous, alternative.

With the *Louisa* on a carriage, they would wheel it to the sheltered harbour of Porlock Weir and launch from there. The



### WALLED OFF

George Hooker's painting shows the demolition of a wall so the road could be widened

proposed route was 15 miles and required climbing sharply up Countisbury Hill and down the hazardously steep Porlock Hill. In those conditions, the walk would have been tricky with just a backpack, let alone making the backbreaking trudge dragging a ten-ton boat.

The sky was black when the overland journey began. Around 100 villagers – including children – and 18 horses were recruited to help push and pull the *Louisa* while half a dozen men travelled ahead so they could clear the road

**“We were drenched to the skin with rain, but that made no difference, as we were soon drenched with sea water, for it was still blowing very hard”**

*George Richards, second coxswain of the Louisa*

### HELPING HAND

The elderly woman who let her wall and home be dismantled so the *Louisa* could pass allowed the destruction to happen **on one condition**: someone had to come back the next day and repair it.





**O CAPTAIN  
MY CAPTAIN**  
Skipper Jack Crocombe  
continued sailing for decades  
after the heroic mission



with shovels and picks. Visibility was poor and the wind made it difficult to keep lanterns lit, but the villagers managed to reach the top of Countisbury Hill, even after the *Louisa's* carriage lost a wheel on the road.

#### HITTING A WALL

Tired, sore and drenched to the bone, the Lynmouth villagers stopped for a quick break at the Blue Ball Inn, on the hill's summit. Many then turned for home, leaving the lifeboat crew to descend Porlock Hill alone. The way down was possibly more exhausting than the ascent as the *Louisa's* speed had to be controlled by continuously pulling on the ropes and straining against the boat's weight.

As they entered Porlock in the early hours of the morning, the men hit their biggest obstacle, literally. A garden wall protruded into the road, making it too narrow for the *Louisa* to pass. With no other choice, they dismantled the wall, to the chagrin of the elderly woman who had been awoken by the sound of her wall being ripped down. When the situation was explained, however, the work continued and she even suggested that the corner of her cottage also be removed to assist the passage of the boat through the village.

The harbour was close, and looked safe enough to launch a boat, but the journey wasn't quite over. Rising water had cut off the road so the *Louisa* had to be cajoled back onto a higher

road and brought back down. Crocombe and co eventually reached Porlock Weir at 6.30am.

**LEFT: The volunteer crew of the Lynmouth lifeboat standing in front of the *Louisa***  
**RIGHT: The steep road leading up the 443-metre-high Countisbury Hill**

road and brought back down. Crocombe and co eventually reached Porlock Weir at 6.30am.

#### OUT TO SEA

Carrying the *Louisa* overland had taken all night, but the rescue mission was just beginning. The crew launched the boat straight away, with barely a moment to catch breath, and rowed for an hour across rough waters before they reached the *Forrest Hall*. The ship had survived and was anchored while waiting for the tug to reappear. When it did, the *Louisa* crew rowed furiously to stretch the cable to the cargo ship, and some jumped on board the *Forrest Hall* to raise the anchor as the sailors were spent from their night of exhausting effort.

As the tug heaved the *Forrest Hall* to Barry, and safety, the *Louisa* followed in case of any further problems. The lifeboat crew, all of them volunteers determined to help, finally arrived back in Lynmouth at dawn on 14 January – over 30 hours after the distress call was sent. 📍

#### 📍 ARE YOU RELATED TO ANY OF THE LIFEBOAT CREW?

A project is underway to find relatives of the heroic Lynmouth lifeboat crew. If you have any information, get in touch!

Email: [jobackhouse@btinternet.com](mailto:jobackhouse@btinternet.com)



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**THE BIG STORY**  
**1066: THE NORMAN**  
**CONQUEST**

# 1066

## THE NORMAN CONQUEST





It is the best known date in English history. And rightly so, for William of Normandy's conquest of England ushered in not just a change in the country's ruling elite, but also major changes in England's culture, language, land ownership and, indeed, its very place on the international stage.

But it would be wrong to think that all this happened overnight – after one cataclysmic battle. The Battle of Hastings was vitally important, of course, but it was just one of three battles to be fought in England that year – and it would actually take several years of hard campaigning before William the Conqueror could feel secure on the English throne.

**Julian Humphrys** looks at the dramatic and often violent events that made up what we now know as the Norman Conquest.

## NOW READ ON...

### NEED TO KNOW

- 1 How Normandy and England Were Born p28
- 2 Rival Claims to the Throne p29
- 3 The Invasion p30
- 4 The Battles p32
- 5 The Bayeux Tapestry p34

### TIMELINE

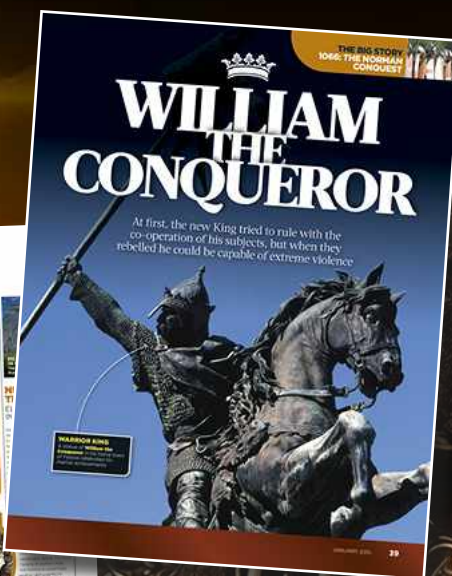
Key moments in the conquest p36

### WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

How the new King ruled England p40

### GET HOOKED!

Find out more on the Normans p47





# NORMANDY DESCENDED INTO VIOLENCE AND CHAOS

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The first Duke of Normandy, baptised as Robert, was originally called Hrólfr (or Rolf) – which was translated to Rollo in Latin. **His forces attacked Paris** more than once in the decades before he settled in northern France.

## LUCKY DIP

The Viking leader Rollo converted to Christianity in exchange for the land that's now Normandy

1

# HOW NORMANDY AND ENGLAND WERE BORN

*As northern France transformed Vikings, Wessex evolved into the kingdom of England*

**D**uring the summers of the eighth and ninth centuries, bands of Vikings sailed their longships from Scandinavia to raid monasteries and towns in Britain, but also in the region we now call northern France. After years of seasonal raiding, they began to overwinter in that area. By the early tenth century, one Viking leader, Rollo, had become powerful enough to force the French king to cede to him the region around Rouen. This became known as Normandy – the country of the 'Northmen'.

These Normans, as they became known, gradually shed their Viking heritage. They converted to Christianity, adopted a French dialect, mastered the art of mounted warfare and married into the families of their French neighbours.

## READY OR NOT?

The Old English *unræd* means 'ill-advised' – Æthelred was not really considered 'unready'

In 1035, Duke Robert of Normandy died, leaving William, his illegitimate 8-year-old son, as his heir. Normandy descended into violence and chaos as rival magnates sought first to control the young Duke and then, as he grew older, to replace him.

William, though, was a survivor. In 1047, with the help of King Henry I of France, he defeated a major rebellion at Val-ès-Dunes near Caen. And as he became increasingly secure, William looked to expand the area of land he controlled.

Like the Normans, the ancestors of the English were invaders. In the fifth century, tribes of Germanic peoples – Angles, Saxons and Jutes – began migrating to the island formerly known as Britannia. They established a number of independent kingdoms that, like Normandy, later converted to Christianity. In the ninth century, all of these kingdoms were overrun by the Vikings.



## GOLDEN GREATS

ABOVE: The Dane King Cnut, also 'the Great', ruled England for two decades

RIGHT: Alfred the Great is depicted on a silver penny



All except one. Wessex fought back – first under the leadership of Alfred the Great, then under his successors. In doing so, a new state was forged, with a single king, law and coinage, and a highly efficient tax-collection system.

At the end of the tenth century, the Viking raiders returned to Britain in greater numbers than ever before, forcing King Æthelred II into exile in Normandy. Æthelred had previously begun forging links with the Duchy in an effort to prevent the Vikings from using Normandy as a base from which to raid England. To strengthen these ties, he married Emma, daughter of Richard I of Normandy. One of their children was the future King Edward the Confessor, who spent much of his early life in exile in Normandy. Meanwhile, England was ruled by Danish kings – first Sweyn 'Forkbeard', who had defeated Æthelred in 1013, and later his son, Cnut the Great.



# RIVAL CLAIMS TO THE THRONE

*The death of Edward the Confessor left four competing would-be kings*

**W**hen Edward the Confessor died, the individual with the best dynastic claim to succeed him was Edgar the Ætheling, grandson of King Edmund Ironside who had ruled for less than six months in 1016. But the hereditary principle was not as important in Anglo-Saxon England as it was to become in later years, and Edgar – who was only about 15 in 1066 – lacked a power base.



**CROWNING GLORY**  
Harold's coronation, probably in Westminster Abbey, began his short rule

**282**

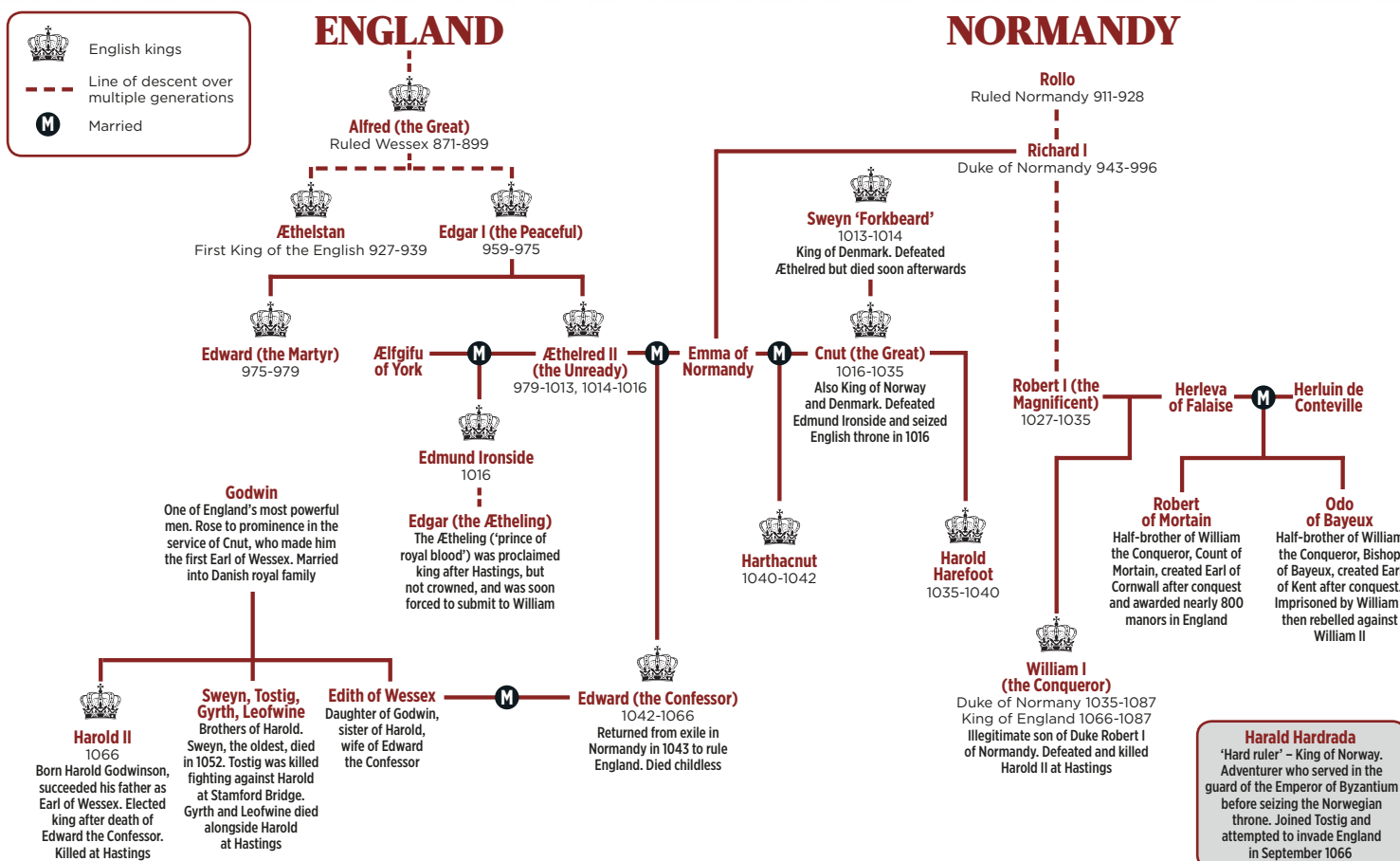
Days of Harold's reign, from coronation on 6 January to death at Hastings on 14 October

Harold Godwinson had no dynastic claim. But he was the most powerful magnate in the kingdom and commanded the support of the council of English nobles known as the Witanagemot (or Witan). This was crucial, because their acceptance was the acid test for kingship. Harold also claimed that Edward, when on his deathbed, had named him as successor. Though William of Normandy was a distant

relative of the Confessor, his chief claim was his assertion that, back in 1051, Edward had promised him the throne. He backed this up by stating that Harold had, two years before Edward's death, sworn to support his succession. But though it was not uncommon for continental kings to name their successors, it was not an established practice in England.

Harald Hardrada, King of Norway, made his dubious claim based on a promise supposedly made to his predecessor on the Norwegian throne by a previous Danish King of England.

In reality, the strength of a claim to the throne meant very little without the military muscle to back it up. In 1066, the crown of England would be won by force of arms, not by any legal argument.





**3**

# THE INVASION

*The key to William's successful assault on England was planning*

**W**illiam of Normandy was livid when he heard that Harold Godwinson had been crowned King of England.

To William, it was not just a political challenge – it was a personal insult. Forget the fact that Edward may have named Harold as his successor on his deathbed, and that the Witan had elected the latter as king. In William's eyes, these details did not invalidate Edward's earlier promise

to leave the throne to the Norman, nor Harold's pledge to help him become king upon Edward's death. William resolved to gather together an army, cross the Channel and seize the throne by force – a tough challenge that was easier said than done. So how did William manage to invade a hostile country in 1066? Here are his six steps to invasion...

**60**

Length in miles of William's Channel crossing, from Saint-Valery-sur-Somme to Pevensey Bay

## 1 Drum up powerful backers

William and his closest advisors decided that an invasion of England was feasible – but they needed to win over the other Norman barons, whose support was vital if the attack was to succeed. However, many of these key players seem to have been decidedly lukewarm about the idea. Despite this, William persevered, and in the end his force of personality, his track record as a military commander, and the promise of land in England eventually won them over. Also, crucially, the invasion had the blessing of the Pope.

## 2 Get approval from the Almighty

Once he'd decided to invade England, William worked to enlist papal support. He made his case to Pope Alexander II, promising to reform the Church in England, which was seen as disorganised and corrupt. Alexander gave the plan his formal blessing and sent William a papal banner to carry. The consecration on 18 June 1066 of the Abbey aux Dames in Caen, founded by William's wife, Matilda, was intended to secure further divine support for the invasion. All of this was also important in swaying his fellow barons. The invasion now had the

status of a crusade – so those taking part were not merely lining their pockets, they were saving their souls.

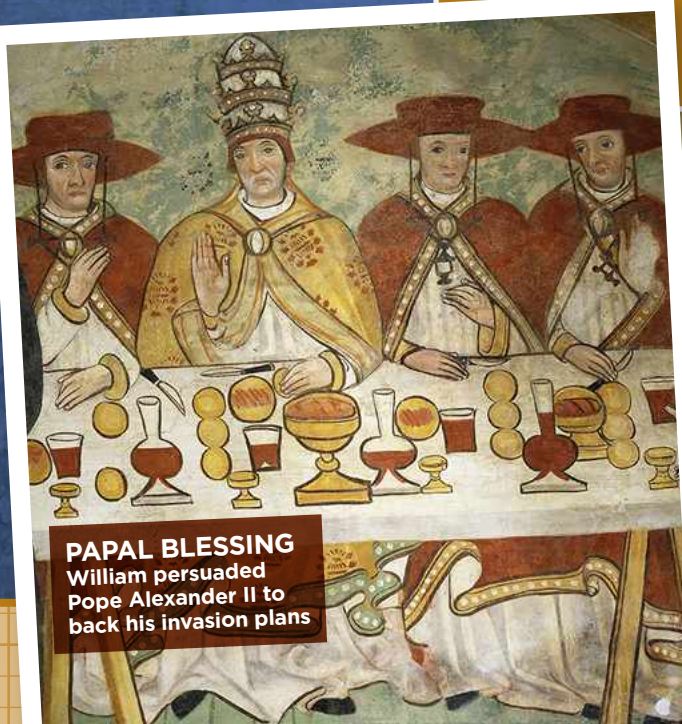
## 6 Construct a base for battle

On the morning of 28 September, William's fleet landed at Pevensey Bay in Sussex, probably sheltering in the old Roman fort. Next day, his army moved to Hastings, where they built a timber-and-earth castle as a more substantial base. Inlets either side allowed only one major approach route, so William's army was secure from surprise attack – and preparing for battle...

ENGLAND

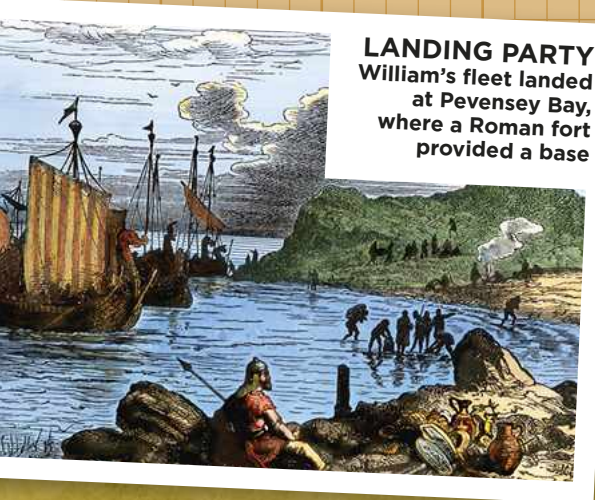
English

BRITTANY



**PAPAL BLESSING**  
William persuaded Pope Alexander II to back his invasion plans





**LANDING PARTY**  
William's fleet landed at Pevensey Bay, where a Roman fort provided a base



**VIKING STYLE**  
William's longships were visual reminders of his Norse forebears

## 5 Speed across the Channel

William's cross-Channel expedition was almost certainly the largest amphibious operation since Roman times. Many of the Normans, Bretons and Flemish in his invasion force would have been experienced mariners, but even so, the vagaries of wind, weather and tides made it a tricky undertaking. William initially assembled his fleet at Dives-sur-Mer, north-east of Caen, but was delayed by unfavourable winds. In fact, this may have worked in his favour. Harold had assembled a fleet of his own to intercept the Normans, but ran out of supplies while awaiting the invasion and was forced to disband it – leaving William with free run of the Channel. On 12 September, he moved his fleet 150 miles up the coast to Saint-Valery-sur-Somme, where the crossing was much shorter. On 27 September, two days after Harold had destroyed a Viking army at Stamford Bridge (overleaf), William set sail.

**LONDON**



**Senlac Hill**

**Pevensey Bay**

**Rye**

**HASTINGS**

Channel

### MAST FROM THE PAST

The Bayeux Tapestry depicts triangular sails on William's fleet. This replica ship was built in 2008 to show these spinnaker sails were ideal for the invasion



**Saint-Valery-sur-Somme**

FLANDERS

PICARDY

## 4 Build a fearsome fleet of ships

The Bayeux Tapestry depicts scenes of frantic activity as trees are felled and Viking-style longships are built to carry William's men, horses and equipment across the Channel. Many of the ships, provided by William's fellow barons, probably already existed. William's half-brothers, Robert of Mortain and Odo of Bayeux, are said to have supplied 120 and 100 ships, respectively. According to the Norman poet and historian Wace, 696 ships were needed to transport the army. This suggests that some of the vessels were little more than fishing smacks – and, indeed, some of these

are shown on the Tapestry. A large ship of that period could carry 40 to 45 armed men (not counting the ship's crew), or ten to 12 knights with their horses.

**Bayeux**

**Dives-sur-Mer**

**CAEN**

**FRANCE**

**NORMANDY**

**Mortain**

## 3 Recruit a king-size army

William cast his net far and wide to raise the army he needed to conquer England. The core of his force comprised soldiers from his Duchy of Normandy but substantial contingents also joined him from Brittany, Flanders, Picardy and elsewhere in France. Eventually, perhaps 8,000 men were assembled and ready to cross the Channel.

**SHIPS SHAPED**  
Norman boat-builders laboured to build longships for William





**4**

# THE BATTLES

*The clash at Hastings was the last of three fought in less than a month*

**H**astings is probably the best-known battle in English history, but it was just one of three major actions fought in England in 1066. In fact, the first challenge to Harold's kingship came not from Normandy but from England's old nemesis: Scandinavia.

In September 1066, Harold was keeping a wary eye on William's preparations across the Channel. But more trouble was brewing across the North Sea – and partly of Harold's own making.

A year earlier, Harold's younger brother, Tostig – at the time, Earl of Northumbria – faced a rebellion.

Keen to keep England united in the face of the Norman threat, Harold sided with the rebels and Tostig was outlawed. In summer 1066, Tostig pledged to support fierce King Harald Hardrada of Norway, who believed he had a claim to the throne, in an invasion of England.

So, in September, Harald crossed the North Sea and sailed up the Humber...

**250**

Distance in miles  
Harold marched from  
Stamford Bridge to  
Hastings



## WEAPONS OF WAR

Harold's army consisted entirely of infantry, while William had cavalry (sporting simple prick spurs [1]) and more archers. Both armies wore spangenhelme [2] – conical strap helmets that had been in popular use across Europe for several centuries. The main weapons were spears [3], typically over 2 metres long, as well as clubs, maces and, among the English, battleaxes.

## SPEARS OF DESTINY

William's horsemen wielded lances and kite-shaped shields, plus maces or swords. Successive cavalry attacks and rounds of arrows thinned out the English shield wall before the main charge.



## NORSE POWER

Harald Hardrada's army likely consisted of about **10,000 men**, two-thirds of whom fought at Fulford.

20 SEPTEMBER

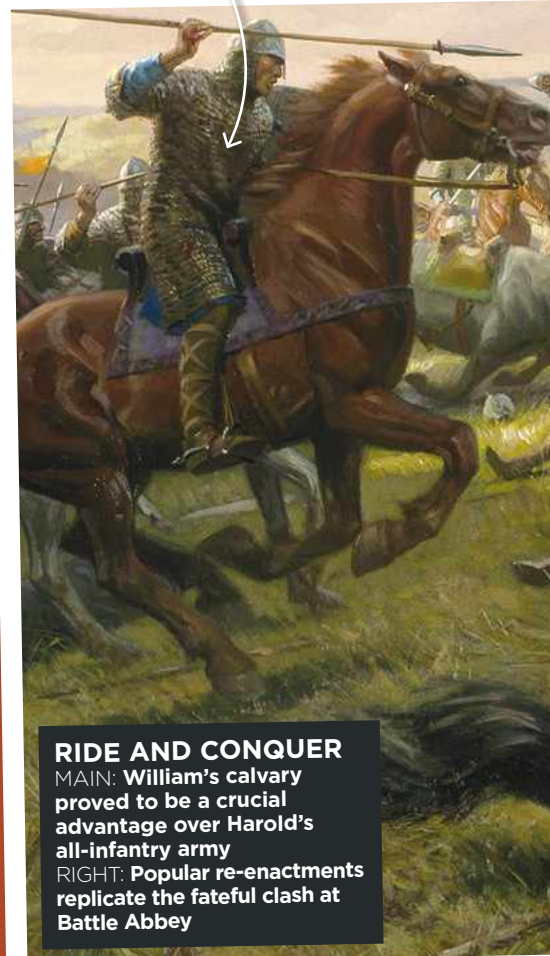
## THE BATTLE OF FULFORD



When Harold heard that Harald Hardrada and Tostig had landed in Yorkshire, he headed north to tackle them. But Earls Edwin of Mercia and Morcar of Northumbria had raised

forces of their own. They marched off to confront the invaders, meeting them at Fulford, just south of York. The English seem to have taken up a strong defensive position at a ford, their flanks protected by a marsh and the tidal waters of the River Ouse. Little is known about the fighting, though reports

suggest that the English initially had the upper hand. Hardrada then outflanked them, possibly using an old Roman road that crossed the marsh, and drove them back in disorder. York, possibly because of its Viking roots, received the invaders favourably. After an exchange of hostages, the Norwegians returned to their ships at Riccall. They were promised that tribute money and more hostages would be brought to them a few days later at Stamford Bridge, a crossing of the Derwent, 8 miles east of York.



## RIDE AND CONQUER

**MAIN:** William's cavalry proved to be a crucial advantage over Harold's all-infantry army  
**RIGHT:** Popular re-enactments replicate the fateful clash at Battle Abbey



25 SEPTEMBER

## THE BATTLE OF STAMFORD BRIDGE



The Norwegians were unaware that Harold and his army were marching north towards them. So when they set off to collect their tributes and hostages at

Stamford Bridge, they left a third of their army at their camp at Riccall. What's more, though they brought their helmets and weapons, the hot weather persuaded them to leave their mail shirts behind.

Having covered over 200 miles in less than a week, Harold's army reached York on the morning of 25 September. Marching on Stamford Bridge, they took the Viking would-be invaders completely by surprise.

Hardrada had deployed the bulk of his army on the river's east (far) bank, so in order to get at them, the

English had to fight their way across the bridge. Some sources say that one giant Viking warrior held the entire English army at bay on the bridge – till he was laid low by a well-aimed spear thrust through the bridge's planks by an Englishman floating in a wooden tub beneath him.

The English then surged across the bridge. After a fierce hand-to-hand fight with axes, spears and swords, the outnumbered and unarmoured Vikings broke and fled back towards Riccall. Few made it there alive. Of the 200 ships that carried the invaders to England, only 24 sailed home with survivors. Both Hardrada and Tostig were among the slain.

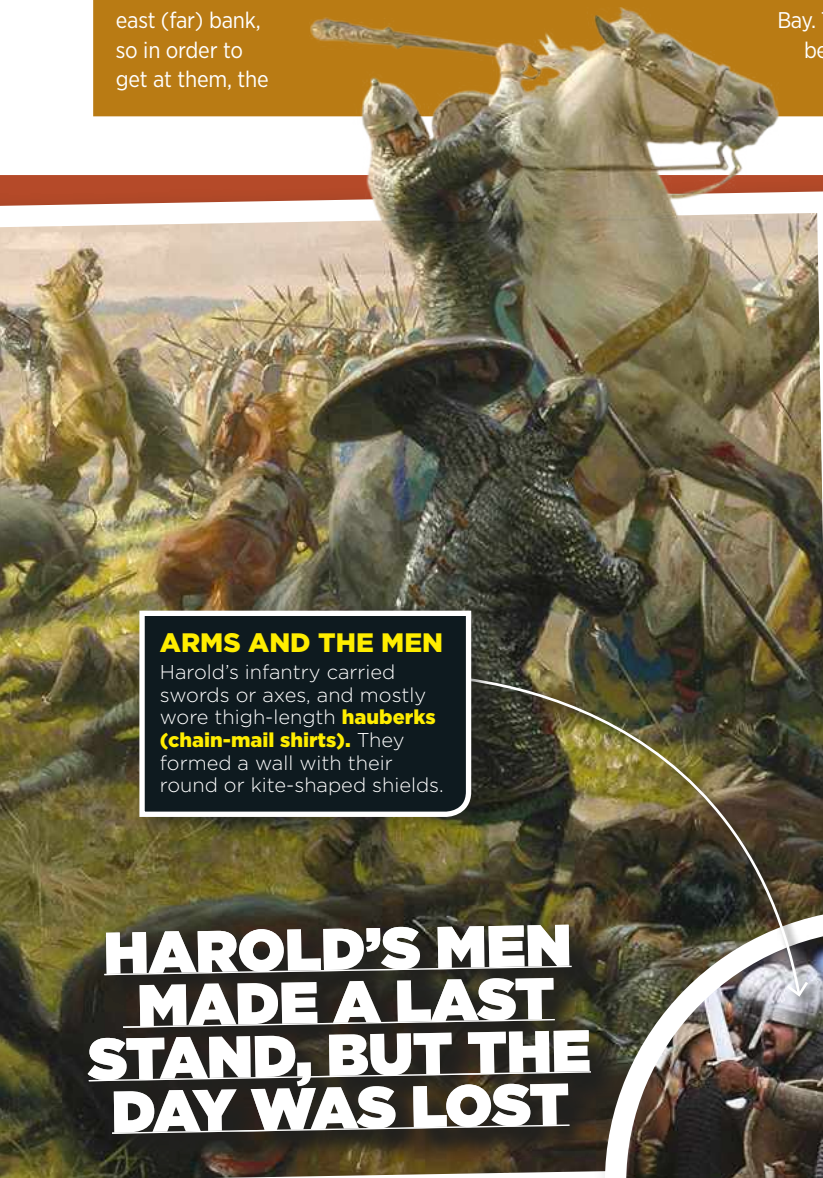
But Harold had no time to rest. On 1 October, he heard that William had landed at Pevensey Bay. To provoke Harold into fighting before he had time to reinforce his army, William ravaged the



### UP THE CREEK

The Norwegians were weakened, having left men and armour at base

countryside. Harold hurried south, waiting just a few days in London for more troops to join him. On 11 October, having dispatched ships to cut off the Norman retreat, he marched on Hastings.



### ARMS AND THE MEN

Harold's infantry carried swords or axes, and mostly wore thigh-length **hauberks (chain-mail shirts)**. They formed a wall with their round or kite-shaped shields.

**HAROLD'S MEN MADE A LAST STAND, BUT THE DAY WAS LOST**

14 OCTOBER

## THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS



If Harold hoped to catch the Normans by surprise at their camp, he was to be disappointed. William's scouts had warned their leader of his approach, and the Normans advanced on Harold. He took up a defensive position on Senlac Hill, the ridge where Battle Abbey now stands, and waited for the Normans to come to him.

William deployed Bretons at the left of his army, soldiers from France, Flanders and Picardy on the right, with his own Norman troops in the centre. His archers and crossbowmen stood in the front ranks, with more heavily armoured infantry behind them. The cavalry were deployed to the rear. Clearly, William's plan was to soften up the English lines by raining arrows down on them before the infantry and cavalry moved in to finish the job.

But the English held firm behind their wall of shields, and the initial Norman attacks made little impression on them. A section of William's army gave way and poured back down the slope, pursued by some of Harold's men. A rumour spread that William had been killed, and soon his entire army was in danger of collapse. He responded swiftly. Riding among his men, he pushed back his helmet to show that he was still alive. Heartened, his men rallied, turning on their scattered English pursuers and cutting them down. Indeed, it is possible that the Normans feigned retreat to draw more English from the hill.

Casualties mounted on both sides, including Harold's brothers Gyrth and Leofwine. Eventually, the relentless combination of archery with infantry and cavalry attacks thinned the English ranks enough for the Norman knights to break through the shield wall. Harold, possibly wounded in the eye by an arrow (though early accounts make no mention of this), was hacked to pieces, and the English line disintegrated. Some of Harold's men may have made a last stand near a ravine called the Malfosse ('evil ditch') – but for the English, the day was lost.





# THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY

*One of Britain's greatest surviving historical sources*

**T**he most famous tapestry in the world isn't actually a tapestry – rather, it's an embroidered strip of linen 68 metres long and half a metre wide. It depicts the events leading up to and including the Battle of Hastings, mainly from a Norman point of view. The original may have shown more, but the end is now missing. It may have

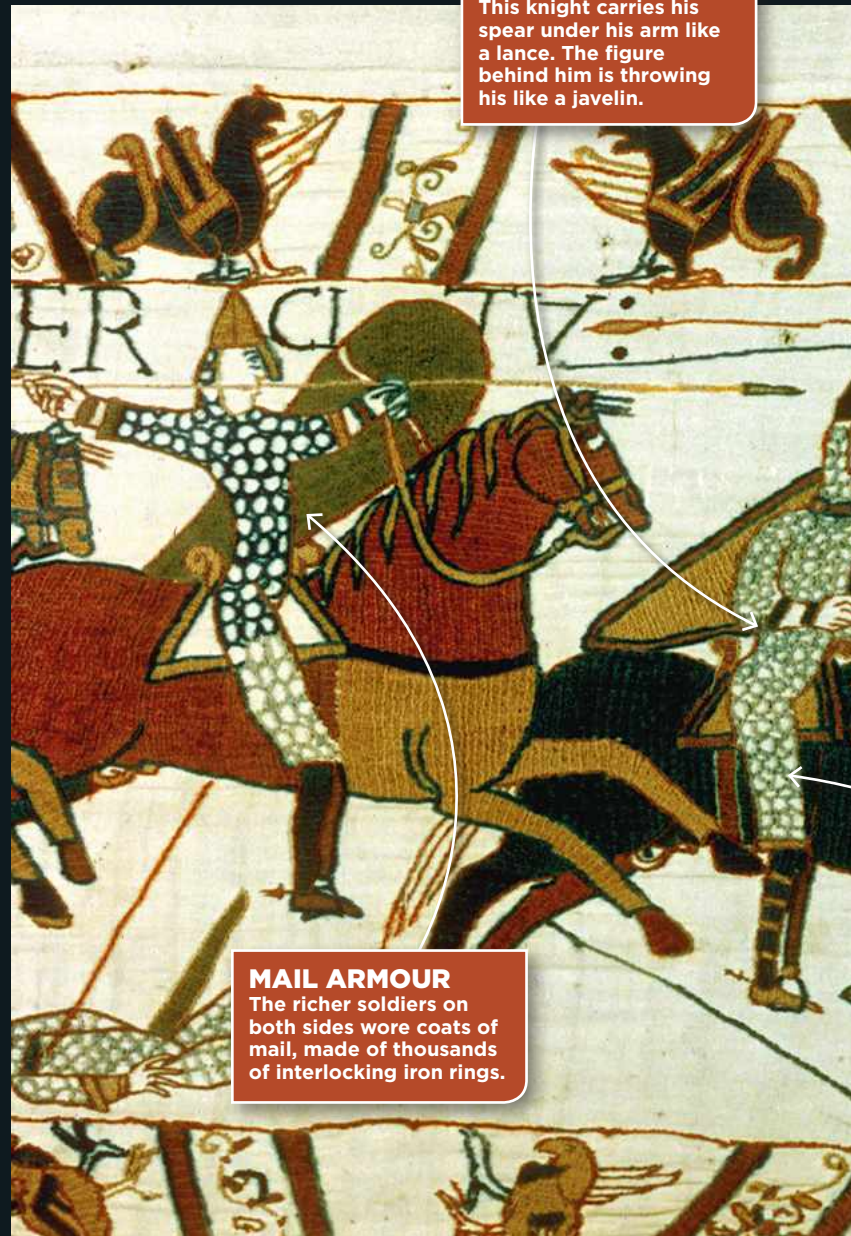
been designed by an English artist and embroidered at a workshop at St Augustine's Abbey at Canterbury.

**626**

human figures, 190 horses, 35 dogs, 506 other birds and animals, 33 buildings, 37 ships and four instances of full-frontal nudity

The fact that he appears quite prominently in its images suggests that the Tapestry was probably commissioned by Odo of Bayeux, one of William's half-brothers, and may have been intended to be hung in the new cathedral in that city on the Normandy coast.

## THE TAPESTRY WAS PROBABLY EMBROIDERED AND DESIGNED IN ENGLAND



**POINTED ATTACK**  
 This knight carries his spear under his arm like a lance. The figure behind him is throwing his like a javelin.

**MAIL ARMOUR**  
 The richer soldiers on both sides wore coats of mail, made of thousands of interlocking iron rings.



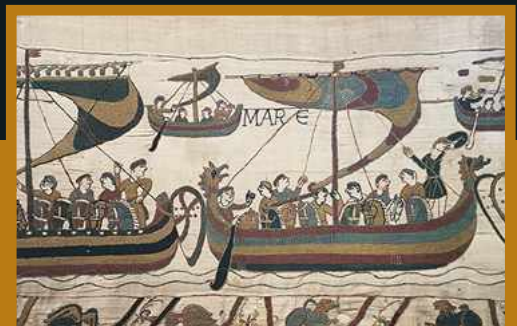
### FATEFUL OATH

A moustached Harold places his hands on boxes of holy relics as he swears an oath to help William become King of England. French accounts say Harold was sent to France by Edward the Confessor in 1064, but was seized by Guy of Ponthieu before being rescued by William and joining him in his campaign against Conan of Brittany. He then swore an oath at Bonneville-sur-Touques, near Deauville, although the Tapestry depicts the event taking place at Bayeux.



### HURRIED CORONATION

Edward the Confessor died on 5 January, and Harold was crowned in Westminster the following day. Harold is depicted wearing a crown and carrying an orb and sceptre while one of his supporters holds the sword of state. Harold was probably crowned by Ealdred, the Archbishop of York, but the Tapestry shows Stigand, the Archbishop of Canterbury next to him. This was most likely in order to make the coronation seem improper, as Stigand had been excommunicated by the Pope.



### CROSSING THE CHANNEL

Nearly 700 ships of varying sizes were needed to transport William's army across the Channel, together with its equipment and, as shown here, its horses. Some of the vessels may well have been small fishing boats like the one shown in the background here. One man guides the ship on the right with a steering board (hence starboard) while another keeps a lookout for land.



### HEAVY BOMBARDMENT

The Normans advanced into a hail of spears, javelins, throwing axes, clubs – even stones tied to pieces of wood.

**THE REAL THING**  
The Tapestry is on show in a special museum in the Norman city of Bayeux

### SHIELD WALL

Harold's army fights behind a wall of interlocking shields, hurling missiles at their attackers.

### SOLO ARCHER

This is the only English archer in the Tapestry. Large numbers of Norman archers are shown.

### NORMAN CAVALRY CHARGE THE ENGLISH SHIELD WALL

Because the Bayeux Tapestry was intended for an aristocratic audience, the part played in the victory by the humble Norman footsoldiers is largely played down. The battle is depicted as being won by William's mounted knights.

### BRIDLE WEAR

Although the soldiers appear to be wearing mail trousers, they actually wore long mail coats, slit front and back to make it easier to ride.



### SCORCHED EARTH

After landing at Pevensey, William moved to Hastings where he set up camp and built a castle. To provoke Harold into fighting before all his forces were assembled, he ordered his men to lay waste to the surrounding area. On the left, William receives news that Harold is approaching, while on the right his men set fire to a building. A woman and child either flee the burning house or are trapped in the flames.



### WILLIAM RALLIES THE TROOPS

The Battle of Hastings began on the morning of 14 October. The Normans' initial attacks went badly and their troops were beaten back by the English. Panic set in as rumour spread that William had been killed. Here, the Tapestry shows William holding a mace and rallying his troops, tilting back his helmet to show he was alive.



### DEATH OF HAROLD

There has been a lot of debate over which of these two figures is Harold. Some people argue that they are both meant to be Harold, first wounded by an arrow and then cut down. But engravings of the Tapestry before it was restored in the 19th century show the figure on the left holding what looks like a javelin. It seems likely that the arrow was added in the 19th century and that the falling figure is in fact the slain King.



# TIMELINE

# The Norman

Follow the tumultuous half-century that saw England riven by rivals and an

**1035**

An 8-year-old boy, William, becomes Duke of Normandy. After surviving early years of control and conflict, he gradually tightens his grip over the Duchy with French help, putting down a major rebellion near Caen in 1047.



**1042**

After spending much of his early life in exile in Normandy, Edward the Confessor becomes King of England. In 1045, he marries Edith, daughters of the powerful Earl of Wessex, Godwin. The marriage produces no children.

**1051**

Edward the Confessor promises the throne of England to William of Normandy. Earl Godwin and his family are sent into exile, but return the following year to reclaim their lands.

**15 APRIL 1053**

Earl Godwin dies after suffering a stroke at a banquet. He is succeeded as Earl of Wessex (and, thus, the most powerful noble in the kingdom) by his son, Harold Godwinson.



**DECEMBER 1066**

English leaders including Edgar submit to William at Berkhamsted. On Christmas Day, William of Normandy is crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey.



**OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1066**

Edgar the Ætheling is declared King by the Witan, but is not crowned. William's troops advance on London but are halted at London Bridge. He leads his army through south-east England, burning and pillaging, depriving London of its food supplies.



**14 OCTOBER 1066**

William defeats the English at the Battle of Hastings. Harold, his brothers Gyrth and Leofwine, and many other English leaders are killed.

**28 SEPTEMBER 1066**

William of Normandy lands his army at Pevensey Bay in Sussex, and begins ravaging the surrounding area. Harold is informed and heads south to confront William.

Harold's army defeats the Norwegians at Stamford Bridge



**AUTUMN 1067**

Having sailed home to Normandy in 1067, William returns to England that same year to deal with resistance. He negotiates the surrender of Exeter after an 18-day siege. Led by Harold's mother, Gytha, Exeter had been a centre of opposition to Norman rule.

**WINTER 1069-70**

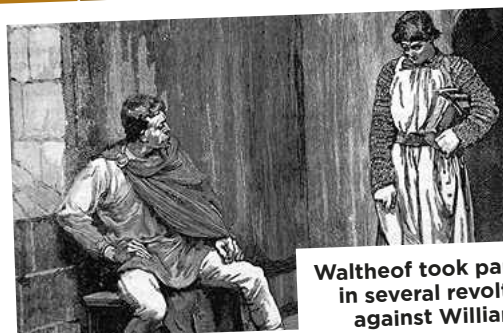
Having faced three rebellions in two years, William brutally suppresses opposition in the North of England. In a campaign known later as 'the Harrying of the North', he systematically lays waste to extensive areas of land.

**1072**

William invades Scotland and forces King Malcolm III, who had been raiding England and supporting rebellions against him, to accept the peace of Abernathy and become William's vassal.

**1075**

William suppresses the so-called Revolt of the Earls, led by Ralph of East Anglia, Roger of Hereford and Waltheof, the last remaining English earl, who is executed.



Waltheof took part in several revolts against William





# conquest of England

illegitimate boy rise to reign on both sides of the Channel

**1055**

Harold's younger brother Tostig becomes Earl of Northumbria. Another brother, Gyrth, becomes Earl of East Anglia. Two years later a third brother, Leofwine, is given an earldom in the home counties.



**1064**

Harold meets Duke William in Normandy. According to Norman accounts, Harold promises to support William in his claim to succeed Edward the Confessor as King of England.

**OCTOBER 1065**

Northern rebels overthrow Tostig as Earl of Northumbria, forcing him into exile. After Harold fails to support him, and accepts Morcar as the new Earl, Tostig plots revenge against his brother.



**MEANWHILE IN MEXICO...**  
The Mayan city of Chichén Itzá was under construction

**25 SEPTEMBER 1066**

After a lightning march north, Harold surprises and defeats the Norwegians at the Battle of Stamford Bridge, east of York. Both Harald Hardrada and Tostig are killed in the clash. This marks the end of the Viking Age in Britain.



Tostig convinces Harald Hardrada to invade England

**20 SEPTEMBER 1066**

Supported by Tostig, King Harald Hardrada of Norway lands in Yorkshire, defeats the combined forces of Mercia and Northumbria at Fulford and enters York.

**5 JANUARY 1066**

Edward the Confessor dies. Harold Godwinson is elected king by the Witan (the Anglo-Saxon Council of Nobles) and is crowned the following day, probably in Westminster Abbey. On hearing the news, William begins assembling an army and fleet, intending to invade England.

## NEWS OF THE WORLD ELSEWHERE IN 1066...

England and Normandy weren't the only places riven with conflict in the mid-11th century. Other Norman warriors were conquering southern Italy, and battling in Sicily during the 1060s. Islamic dynasties and empires had spread across the Middle East, North Africa and into Europe, and were now battling in various regions. The Seljuks had swept into Syria and the Caucasus, taking Georgia, and would go on to invade the Byzantine Empire in 1067, capturing most of Asia Minor (now known as Anatolia, the Asian portion of Turkey).

Nor was everything peaceful in South-East Asia. The Champa Kingdom of what's now central Vietnam, having been defeated by the Dai Viet, were paying tribute to their enemy – but would rise up against them in 1068, only to suffer another catastrophic defeat. The Chola Dynasty of southern India was building its power base, sending raiding parties to today's Sri Lanka, Malaysia and elsewhere in South-East Asia. In Central America, the Maya were still flourishing in the Yucatán: the pyramid called El Castillo was built at Chichén Itzá around this time.

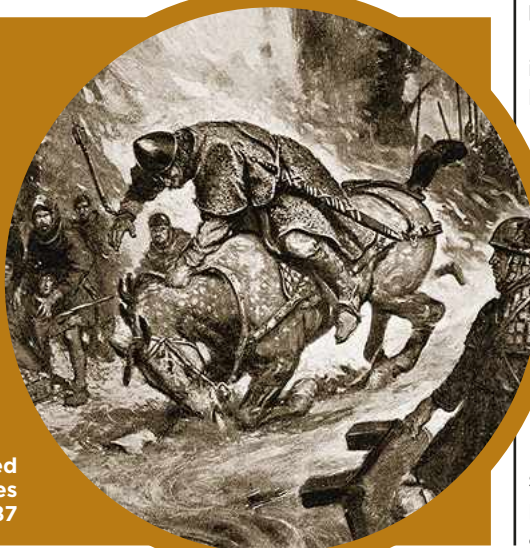
**DECEMBER 1085**

Faced with an invasion by Cnut II of Denmark, William commissions Domesday Book, a survey of the resources and land ownership of his new kingdom. It is largely completed by the following summer.

**9 SEPTEMBER 1087**

William dies during a campaign in France, having been injured while fighting on horseback. He is 59, and ruled England for 21 years. He leaves Normandy to his eldest son, Robert, and England to his third, Robert II, known as 'Rufus'.

William is fatally injured while sacking Mantua on 15 August 1087





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# WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

At first, the new King tried to rule with the co-operation of his subjects, but when they rebelled he could be capable of extreme violence

## WARRIOR KING

A statue of **William the Conqueror** in his home town of Falaise celebrates his martial achievements.

TOP PHOTO: XI, GETTY XI



**D**espite his great victory at Hastings on 14 October 1066, William wasn't to enter London for another two months. After resting at Hastings, his army captured Dover and then, after recovering from an outbreak of dysentery, received the surrender of Canterbury.

When a detachment of William's cavalry found London Bridge defended against them he opted against a full-blown assault on the capital. He instead embarked on a destructive march through Surrey and Hampshire. Burning and pillaging as they went, his troops captured the royal treasure at Winchester. By mid-November William's troops had crossed the Thames, and were based at Wallingford.

Edwin and Morcar, the two northern earls who had earlier been defeated at Fulford, attempted to rally the English around the young Edgar Aethling, a grandson of the late King Edmund Ironside. Edgar was proclaimed king, but without the leadership of the powerful Godwin family, English resistance rapidly began to crumble. Edwin and Morcar withdrew

northwards, while Stigand, the archbishop of Canterbury, deserted Edgar. In mid-December the remaining English leaders in London submitted to William at Berkhamsted.

On Christmas Day 1066, William was crowned in Westminster Abbey. Mistaking English shouts of acclamation for a riot, his soldiers set fire to surrounding buildings. The service was concluded

left his half-brother Odo of Bayeux, whom he made Earl of the important county of Kent, and William FitzOsbern. Apart from an attack on Dover by William's old comrade Eustace of Boulogne and a couple of local raids, including one on Hereford by the splendidly-named Eadric the Wild, who had fallen out with the local Normans, things were relatively quiet throughout most of 1067.

But trouble was in the air. In the early months of his reign, William seems to have done everything he could to persuade his new English subjects that he intended to rule with their co-operation, as well as with the support of those who had accompanied him to England. While he had seized the lands of those

## IT TOOK FIVE YEARS OF BRUTAL CAMPAIGNING BEFORE WILLIAM WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH CONTROL OVER ALL OF ENGLAND

amid clouds of smoke, the new King shaking like a leaf. Defeat at Hastings had cost the English their best chance of stopping the invasion and deprived them of some of their best leaders but it took another five years of brutal campaigning, especially in the North, before William was able to establish control over all of England.

In March 1067, William returned to Normandy where Matilda, his wife, had been looking after affairs in his absence. To oversee England he

### KING AT CHRISTMAS

William had himself crowned on Christmas Day 1066 in a ceremony that descended into chaos when his soldiers thought there was a riot. While he was in England, his wife **Matilda** (inset) ruled as regent in Normandy.



### THE RIGHTFUL KING

The coronation, held in Westminster Abbey amid tight security and before he had secured the country, emphasised William's belief that he was the rightful heir to the throne.



who fought against him at Hastings, every Englishman who remained loyal would retain his ancestral property. However, the English resented the incomers' desire to grab as much land and wealth as they could. Senior magnates felt they were not getting the treatment their rank deserved and William's imposition of a heavy tax in order to pay his troops caused increasing discontent.

In spring 1068, the first major anti-Norman rebellion broke out, in Exeter, a well-fortified city sheltering Harold's mother, Gytha. William took the rebellion seriously for he hurried back from Normandy, crossing the Channel in December, an extremely risky time to do so. With an army of Norman knights and English levies, he marched into Devon and laid siege to the city, which surrendered after 18 days. Although his army had suffered severely in the cold winter weather, William treated the city relatively leniently. He ordered the construction of a large castle inside its walls before going off to subdue the rest of Devon and Cornwall.

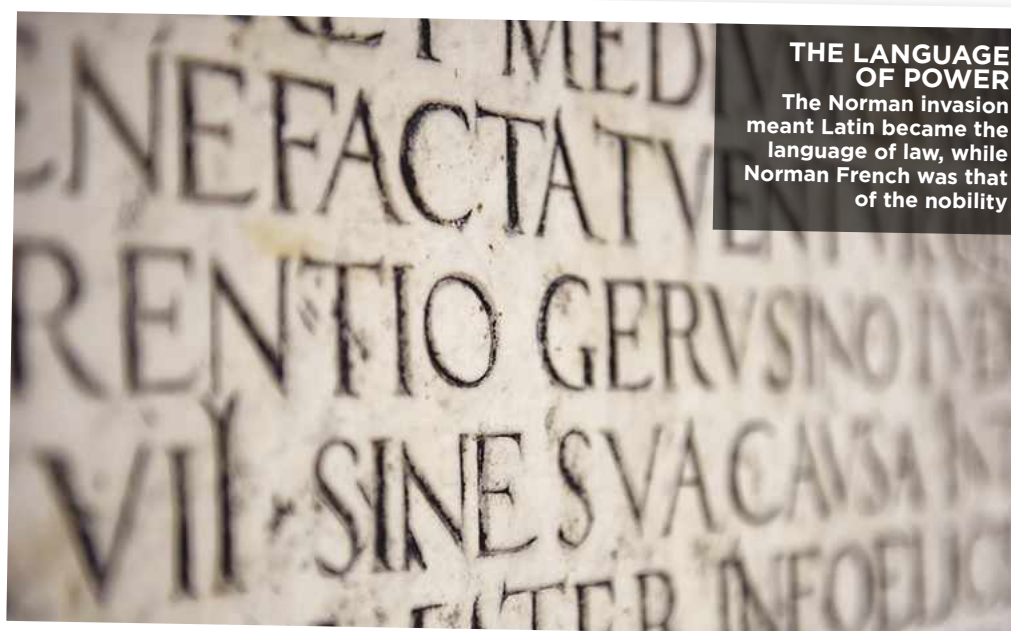
### CASTLE-BUILDING POLICY

William then set out to impose his authority on the Midlands, where Edwin and Morcar briefly defied him, and Yorkshire. As at Exeter, he did this by having castles built at important sites like Warwick, York, Lincoln and Cambridge, and installing garrisons in them. But it soon became clear that the English, or at least some of them, weren't going to take this lying down.

In January 1069, the Northumbrians rose against Robert de Commines, their newly-installed Norman Earl. They stormed Durham and killed all the foreigners they could find, including Commines, who was burned to death as he sought refuge in the Bishop's house. The rebellion rapidly spread to York, where the Norman defenders of the castle were able to get a message to William asking him for help. They gave the worrying news that the rebels were calling Edgar Aethling their king and were being helped by Malcolm, King of Scots.

William was in Normandy when the news reached him and again hurried back. He marched to York, catching the rebels by surprise and scattering their forces. After repairing York castle and ordering the construction of an additional one, he returned south to spend Easter in Winchester.

These were troubled times for William and he took the precaution of sending his wife Matilda and his eldest son Robert, both then in England, back to Normandy. That summer Godwin, the son of the late king Harold, arrived with a small fleet and landed in south Devon. He probably intended to attack Tavistock but was surprised by forces loyal to William and driven off having suffered heavy losses. Meanwhile there were further rebellions in the South West and on the Welsh border, where



**THE LANGUAGE OF POWER**  
The Norman invasion meant Latin became the language of law, while Norman French was that of the nobility

## HOW THE NORMANS GAVE US LATIN

The problem was that William didn't speak English

The Norman Conquest led to closer political and economic ties with north-west Europe rather than with Scandinavia. It brought a French-speaking elite and major changes in language. Before the Conquest, English was spoken and used for official documents. But England's new Norman overlords didn't speak it (William tried to learn, but soon gave up) so there was little point having documents users couldn't understand. From about 1070, all charters, writs and official documents were in Latin, a language that educated people across Europe could understand. Today, legal terms still tend to be Latin

in origin, such as *a priori* (meaning an argument derived from previous event) or *de jure* (concerning the law).

French was the everyday language of the nobility and this has affected the language we speak today. Many words denoting luxury have a French origin: for example, milk is an English word, cream is French. The names of farm animals in the field tend to be English in origin (such as pig or cow) until they reach the table when they become French (pork or beef).

Lower down the social scale, which meant for most people in the country, English was still the language in daily use.

Eadric the Wild was up to his old tricks again, attacking and burning Shrewsbury.

But the biggest danger was again in the North, where the rebels had been joined by Danish forces under the command of Asbjorn, the

brother of King Sweyn II of Denmark. Once again York declared for Edgar although

its two castles remained in the hands of forces loyal to William. On 19 September, the castle garrisons tried to improve their defences by clearing the ground around their ramparts but only succeeded in causing a fire that badly damaged the city and destroyed St Peter's Cathedral.

When their castles were stormed two days later, the garrisons were shown little mercy by the rebels. With the exception of the two castellans and their families, who were held for ransom, they were all put to the sword.

William, who had been hunting in the Forest of Dean when the rebellion flared up, yet again marched north. Heavy rain delayed him and when he eventually reached York he found its charred ruins deserted. The rebels had withdrawn, and the Danes had returned to their ships on the Humber and were, in effect, unreachable.

Determined to break this cycle of rebellion, William took drastic and brutal action. He paid the Danes to go away and then turned his attention to the region itself, ordering his soldiers to punish the rebels and deny them supplies by killing the population, burning villages, seizing or destroying food and laying waste to land. In what became known as 'the Harrying of the North', large areas of Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and Staffordshire were laid waste and thousands of people were forced from their homes or starved.

Such ravaging was not uncommon in warfare of the time but the sheer scale of it seems

**500**  
The number of castles built in England during William the Conqueror's reign



# MASTER BUILDERS

How the Normans transformed England's buildings

Although a few castles had been built by Norman settlers during the reign of Edward the Confessor, after the Battle of Hastings came a surge of castle building in England. William was faced with a hostile population, periodic rebellions, Scottish and Welsh raids, and Scandinavian invasions. The widespread construction of castles was to be a major factor in the Normans' success in conquering and holding the country. Castles served as

bases for military operations, as refuges in the event of rebellion, as administrative centres, and as symbols of Norman dominance. Archaeological evidence suggests that over 500 castles were built during the reign of the Conqueror. Although some were 'ringworks' – enclosures defended by a ditch, bank and palisade – the majority were motte and bailey, consisting of an earthen mound topped with a

wooden tower and surrounded by a bailey, an enclosure defended by an earth bank topped with a wooden palisade. By the 12th century, many castle builders were replacing wood with stone. Great stone towers or 'keeps' are often seen as typical 'Norman' fortification, but only those at Chepstow, Colchester and the Tower of London seem to have been built during William's reign.

## MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE

While we often think of great stone keeps as being typical of the period, the Norman conquerors needed to build in a hurry, so the vast majority of **their early castles were constructed of wood and earth**. Lots of earthworks survive in England but the wooden buildings that once stood on them have long since disappeared.

### BAILEY

An enclosure defended by a ditch and an earth bank topped with a wooden palisade.

### THATCHED ROOFS

As the Bayeux Tapestry shows, these made the castle buildings highly vulnerable to fire.

### DITCH

Kept attackers away from the wooden walls. Sometimes but not always filled with water.



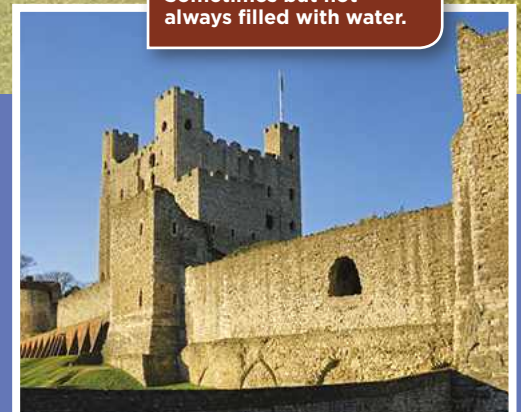
## OLD SARUM

The Normans established a castle, cathedral and town within the ramparts of an Iron Age fortification and, for 150 years, it was a major centre of government. In the 13th century, the cathedral was moved to the site of what is now Salisbury (top) and the town soon followed.



## TOWER OF LONDON

William the Conqueror built a number of strongholds to intimidate the citizens of London. The best known is the Tower of London, which takes its name from the central tower, built by Bishop Gundulf of Rochester and completed by the 1170s.



## ROCHESTER CASTLE

In 1066, a timber castle was built to control the important river crossing at Rochester. This was replaced by a stone castle in the 1080s. The great tower was begun in 1127. At 39 metres, it's the tallest Norman keep in England.



### TOWER

A two-storey wooden building providing the most comfortable accommodation and also offering a place to fall back to should the lower bailey be captured. Examples of such buildings can be seen in the Bayeux Tapestry.

### DRAWBRIDGE

A raisable drawbridge connects the motte with the steps leading down to the bailey.

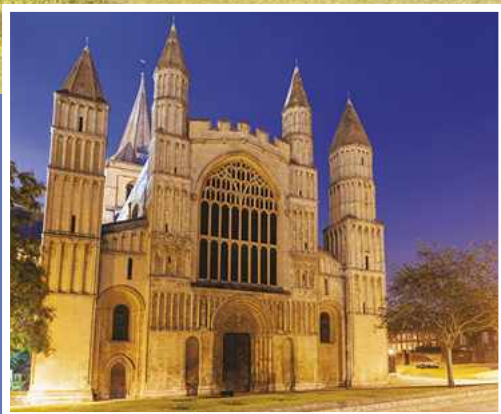
### DOMESTIC BUILDINGS

Buildings here might include accommodation for some of the lord's retainers as well as stables, storehouses and perhaps a kitchen and forge.

### MOTTE

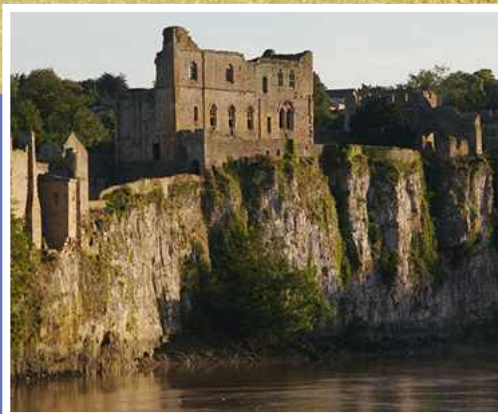
A man-made stone and earth mound with a wooden tower on top. Most of the material for the mound would have come from the ditch dug around it.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT OVER 500 CASTLES WERE BUILT DURING THE REIGN OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR



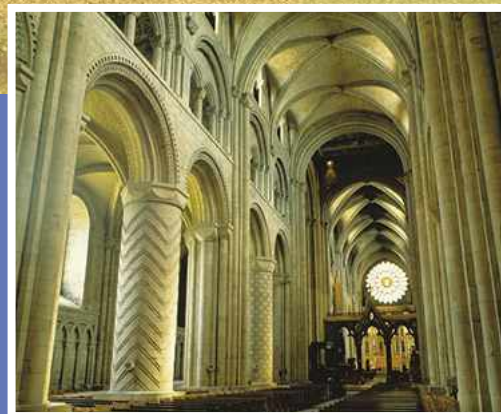
### ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

The Normans reformed the English Church, reorganising bishoprics and undertaking a major cathedral-building programme. Although the large window was added later, the west front of Rochester cathedral is a masterpiece of Norman 'Romanesque' architecture.



### NORMAN TOWER AT CHEPSTOW CASTLE

Chepstow was built in stone from the outset, probably to impress William's Welsh neighbours. The Great Hall was built partly using stone from the nearby Roman town at Caerwent. Its purpose was as much ceremonial as military.



### DURHAM CATHEDRAL

One of the glories of Norman architecture, Durham cathedral was begun in 1093 and largely completed in 40 years. It still retains its massive Norman arches and columns, which are decorated with Saxon-style linear carvings.



to have shocked contemporaries. The Anglo-Norman chronicler Orderic Vitalis wrote:

"In his anger he commanded that all crops and herds, chattels and food of every kind should be brought together and burned to ashes with consuming fire, so that the whole region north of the Humber might be stripped of all sustenance. In consequence so serious a scarcity was felt in England, and so terrible a famine fell upon the humble and defenceless populace, that more than 100,000 Christian folk of both sexes, young and old alike, perished of hunger."

Some say that the effects of the Harrying of the North may have been exaggerated but the fact remains that Domesday Book, compiled 15 years after the rebellion, describes substantial parts of the North Riding as "waste". Northern England had been cowed into submission but the fighting was not yet over.

## FENLAND REBELS

In Spring 1070, Sweyn II of Denmark arrived to take personal command of his fleet and, despite the earlier agreement to withdraw, sent troops into the Fens to join forces with English rebels led by a mysterious figure known as Hereward the Wake. Although Sweyn soon accepted a further payment from William and returned home, the Fenland rebels remained at large, protected by the marshes.

Edwin and Morcar again turned against William in 1071. Edwin was betrayed by his own men and killed but Morcar reached the

Isle of Ely, where Hereward was holding out. William arrived with soldiers and ships to finish off this last pocket of resistance and, after some initial failures, the Normans managed to build a pontoon bridge to reach the island, which they stormed.

Although William would still have to face the threat of invasion and rebellion by disgruntled barons, English resistance to William's rule was finally over.

Each rebellion had been followed by the confiscation of the rebels' land and its redistribution to William's

continental followers. The result of this was a massive change in land ownership. By 1086, virtually all of England was in the hands of Normans and other Frenchmen.

In 1072, William dealt

with Scotland. The court of Malcolm III had sheltered Edgar Atheling on several occasions and the Scots had been raiding the North of England. William's forces were too strong for the Scots, who came to terms with him at Abernethy on the River Tay. Malcolm agreed to accept William's overlordship and to expel Edgar Aethling from his court.

William was now secure on his throne but was to spend relatively little time in the kingdom he'd fought so hard to

**200**

Number of Norman barons who became the major landowners in the Kingdom.

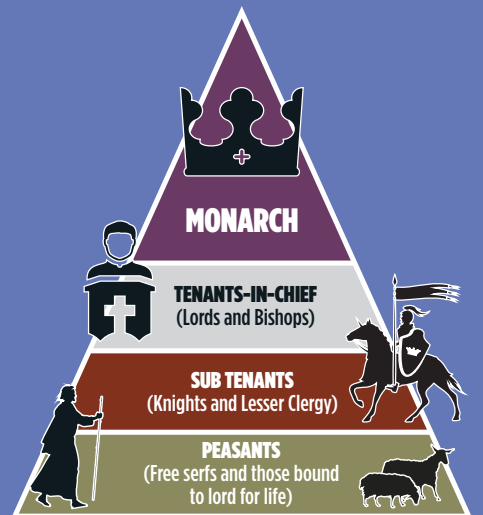
## MORE THAN 100,000 CHRISTIAN FOLK, YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE, PERISHED OF HUNGER

### FIGHTING SPIRIT

While hunting in the Forest of Dean, William I hears of an uprising in Yorkshire. He responds by laying waste to large areas with a ferocity seen as brutal even by the standards of the time.

## A FEUDAL SYSTEM?

'Feudal' was a term coined by historians to describe the arrangement by which people held land from someone further up the social pyramid (see below) in exchange for service - military, administrative or labour. However, it was never a formal system and was by no means the only arrangement for landholding. It was once said the Normans introduced Feudalism into England, but it's clear that service in exchange for land took place in England long before the Conquest.



**REBELLIONS AND TREATIES**  
FAR RIGHT: William gets news of the 1069 rising in the North  
RIGHT: Outnumbered, Malcolm III accepts William's overlordship in 1072







# DOMESDAY BOOK

One of history's most famous books is a unique record of medieval England

In 1085, when England was threatened by another Danish invasion and William needed to raise an army, he wanted to know what financial and military resources were available. He commissioned a survey to find out who owned what after the redistribution of land in the two decades since Hastings – and to find out how much was owed to him in the form of tax, rents and military service. According to a first-hand account by the Bishop of Hereford, government inspectors “made a survey of all England; of the lands in each of the counties; of the possessions of each of the magnates, their lands, their habitations, their men, both bond and free, living in huts or with their own houses or land; of ploughs, horses and other animals; of the services and payments due from each and every estate”.

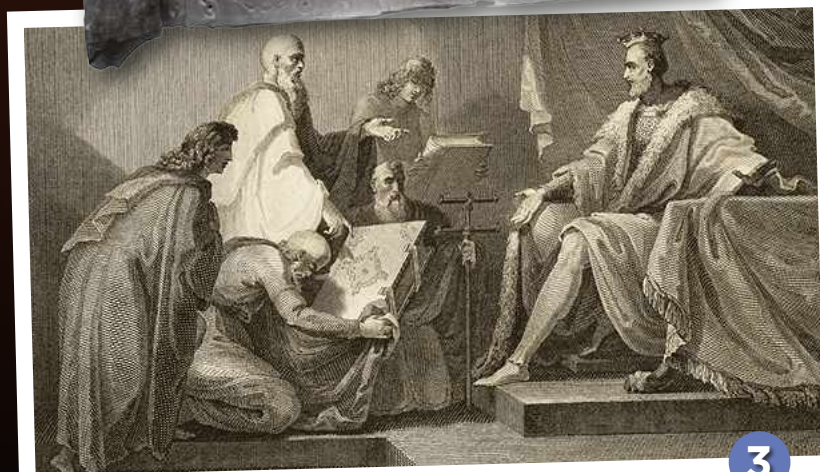
The survey was never fully completed, abandoned after William II's accession in 1087. There are also omissions, including important cities such as London, Winchester and Durham. Nevertheless Domesday

Book, the record of that survey, provides us with a remarkable snapshot of early medieval England. No other country possesses such a detailed single record from so far back in time. Although normally referred to as one book, the record is written up in two with nearly 900 pages. It was dubbed ‘Domesday Book’ by the English, who saw it as a kind of legal judgement.

It shows that while the country was still organised into the old and extremely effective English system of shires and hundreds, land ownership had changed beyond all recognition. By 1086, only about five per cent of land in England south of the Tees was left in English hands and the 2,000 or so significant English landholders had been replaced by just 200 Norman barons.

## A BIG LIST OF THE COUNTRY'S ASSETS

- 1: Domesday Book was a 900-page list of land and property
- 2: The wood and metal cover of Domesday Book
- 3: The King is presented with the final work (note the cover) in 1086, imagined in a later engraving







## EXPERT VIEW

*Tracy Borman has written a biography of Queen Matilda*

## WILLIAM HAD A STRONG WIFE – WITH A ROYAL PEDIGREE

### Was the Norman Conquest inevitable after Hastings?

William's triumph at Hastings was only the beginning of a long and hard-fought campaign to subdue the recalcitrant Saxons. It was a campaign that would rage for at least another decade, and even then there remained pockets of fierce resistance.

### What sort of ruler was William?

William epitomised everything Saxons despised about their conquerors. One of the most feared warriors in Europe, he he could be merciless on campaign. His tactic was to bully his subjects into submission. Known as 'William the Bastard', his illegitimacy undermined his credibility and gave strength to rivals with arguably better claims.

### What role did his wife Matilda play?

William's formidable wife Matilda played a key, largely unsung, role. She arrived in 1068, having stayed in Normandy for two years as de facto regent. Her English subjects were suspicious because of the power she wielded in Normandy (this was not an age of equality) and called her "that strange woman". But her pedigree was unquestioned – she could trace her descent to King Arthur, as well as most royal families in Europe – and she lent much needed legitimacy, not to mention glamour, to the Norman dynasty. By the time of her death, she was hailed as "Queen Matilda, wealthy and powerful".

### What is your favourite Norman site?

The Tower of London, a bastion of Norman power that dominated the land and has withstood invaders for almost 1,000 years. I've just written a book about the Tower (*The Story of the Tower of London*, due out this year) and it was like writing a history of England – it was at the centre of so many momentous events in the country's history.

## FUNERAL FIASCO

William's funeral was, like his coronation, beset by farce. His **putrefying corpse burst** and mourners scrambled for the exit to avoid the stench.



**THE KING IS DEAD  
LONG LIVE THE KING**  
This 15th-century painting of William's funeral shows his son shown being crowned on the right

## WILLIAM WAS TO SPEND LITTLE TIME IN THE KINGDOM HE'D FOUGHT SO HARD TO CONQUER

conquer. The Duchy of Normandy was under threat from its neighbours and from rebellion by William's son Robert Curthose. In 1085, towards the end of his reign, England was once again threatened with invasion from Denmark, causing William to commission the survey later known as Domesday Book to establish resources at his disposal.

After taking an oath of loyalty from his chief landowners at Salisbury on 1 August 1086, William crossed the Channel to deal with an

invasion of southern Normandy by King Philip I of France. In July 1087, he was supervising the devastation of the town of Mantes when his horse stumbled and he was thrown forward onto the pommel of his saddle causing painful, and fatal, internal injuries. On 9 September, the Conqueror died. His putrefying body was taken to Caen for burial but when the priests tried to stuff it into a stone coffin that was too small for it, his body burst, causing mourners to rush for the doors in a bid to escape the stench. 🚪

## A DIVIDED EMPIRE

Soon, England would be ruled by the Plantaganets

William the Conqueror divided his inheritance between his two surviving eldest sons. The eldest, Robert, was given Normandy while England went to William Rufus. William's third son, Henry, received no land but was given a hefty sum of money instead. In 1100, William Rufus was killed in a hunting accident in the New Forest. At the time, Robert

was returning from the First Crusade and his younger brother Henry took advantage of his absence to seize the crown of England. In 1106, Henry captured Robert at the Battle of Tinchebray and gained control of Normandy. When Henry died in 1135 he left many illegitimate children but no legitimate male heir. He nominated his daughter Matilda (who was married to Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou) to succeed him but many of the nobility were unwilling to accept her and instead supported Stephen of Blois, the son of William I's daughter Adela. The result was nearly two decades of civil war, which only ended when it was agreed that Stephen should be succeeded by Matilda's son, the future Henry II, who became king in 1154.

**CIVIL WAR**  
For 20 years, William's grandchildren Matilda and Stephen vied for the throne





# GET HOOKED!

*There is a wealth of resources available to further your conquest of all things Norman...*

## PLACES TO VISIT



### ▲ BATTLE ABBEY

Built on the Hastings battle site by William's order. Along with parts of the battlefield, you can explore the abbey remains. A visitor centre tells the story of 1066. [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

### ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- Durham's Norman cathedral [www.durhamcathedral.co.uk](http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk)
- The ancient stone keep at Chepstow [cadw.wales.gov.uk](http://cadw.wales.gov.uk)
- The massive earthworks of Old Sarum [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

## BOOKS



### THE NORMAN CONQUEST (2012)

*By Marc Morris*

This is a well-written and balanced overview of William's conquest as a whole.



### MATILDA: QUEEN OF THE CONQUEROR (2012)

*By Tracy Borman*

The story of William's wife, Matilda, who was an important but often overlooked figure.

### ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- Campaigns of the Norman Conquest *by Matthew Bennett*
- The Godwins: the Rise and Fall of a Noble Dynasty *by Frank Barlow*
- The Conquest historical fiction series *by James Aitchison*

## ON SCREEN

### 1066: THE BATTLE FOR MIDDLE EARTH

This gritty two-part 2009 'docudrama' from Channel 4 tells the story of the conquest from the point of view of a band of humble soldiers.



### ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- A full-length feature film called 1066 is currently in pre-production



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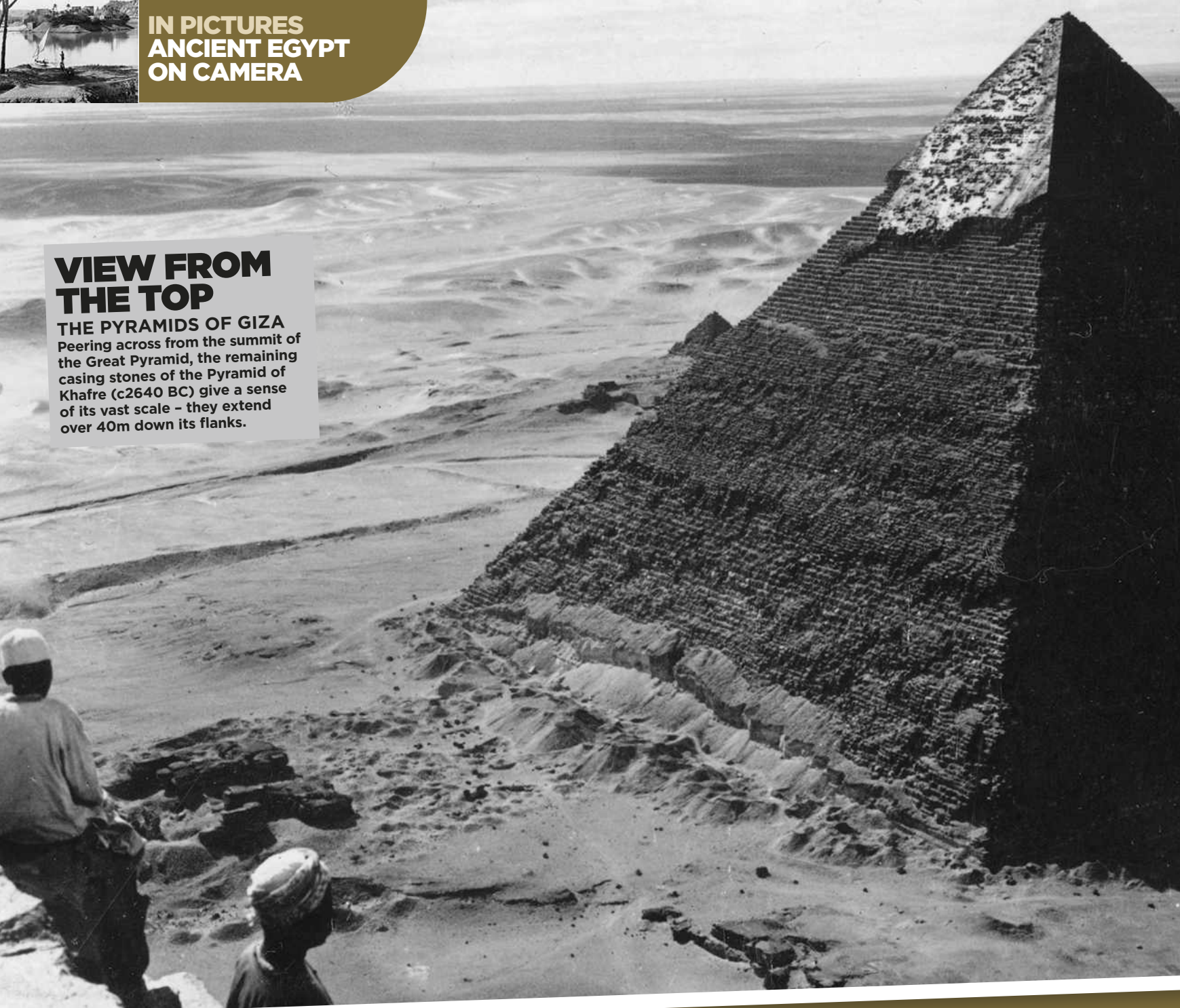




**IN PICTURES  
ANCIENT EGYPT  
ON CAMERA**

## **VIEW FROM THE TOP**

**THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA**  
Peering across from the summit of the Great Pyramid, the remaining casing stones of the Pyramid of Khafre (c2640 BC) give a sense of its vast scale – they extend over 40m down its flanks.



# EGYPT IN STEREO

In 1905, a collection of 3D images with text by an expert Egyptologist revolutionised armchair travel – creating the first virtual reality cruise up the Nile





# LOWER EGYPT

In *Egypt Through the Stereoscope*, American Egyptologist James Breasted wrote insightful descriptions of these innovative photos, starting in Cairo...



## DOUBLE VISION

### IN-DEPTH VIEWS

James Breasted recognised that stereoscopic images – couplets of photos that, seen through a pair of stereoscopic lenses, created a 3D viewing experience – could be powerful tools for educating people about the history of Egypt. He himself visited many times over several decades – and took his bride on honeymoon along the Nile in 1894.



## BODY OF EVIDENCE

### MUMMIFIED MARVELS

This box set of stereoscopic images with expert text wasn't merely created to titillate the public, who were still in thrall to the 19th-century obsession with Egypt. So Breasted's text covered exhibits from Cairo Museum – his description of the mummy of Sethos I (Seti I, died 1279 BC) included details of the mummification process.

## FIRST STEPS

### THE PYRAMID OF DJOSER

Breasted was at the vanguard of modern Egyptology, and employed scientific study methods. He used the box set to explain the importance of the Step Pyramid (c2650 BC) at Saqqara, a few miles south of Giza, in the evolution of these colossal tombs.



## RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX

### AGELESS BEAUTY

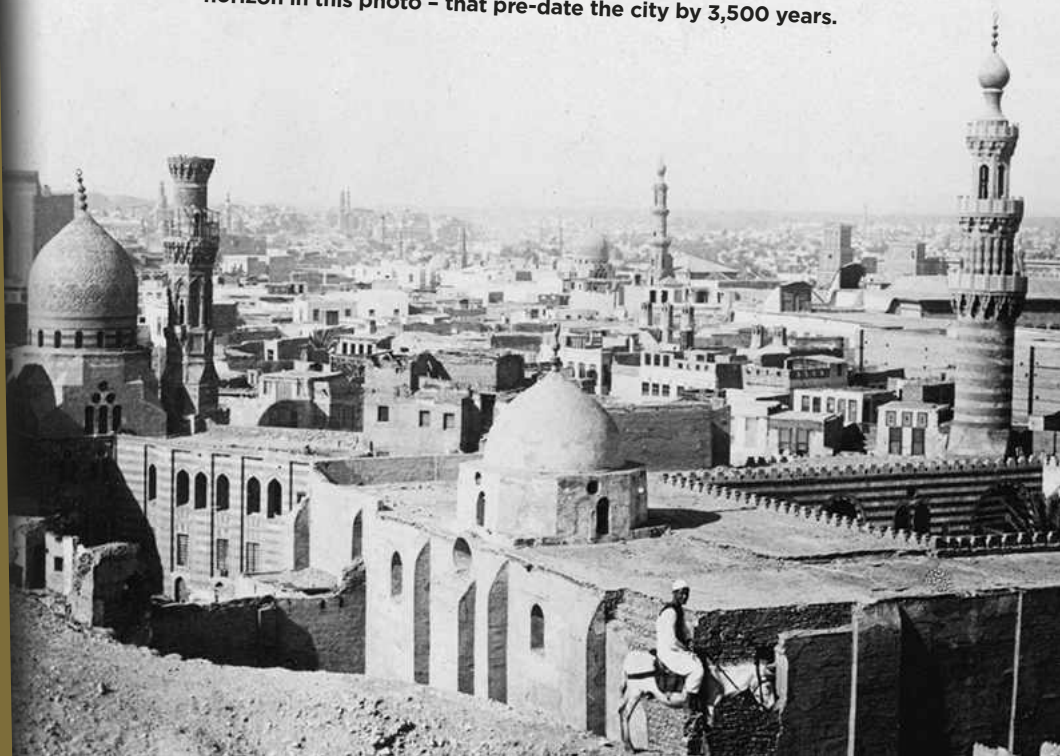
When the photographer employed by the collection's publishers visited, the Sphinx was still partially buried – it wasn't completely excavated and restored till 1936. Even today, we still don't know when it was built, nor by whom.



## CITY OF CALIPHS

### CAIRO SKYLINE

In the early 20th century, Egypt's capital had a population of nearly one million people, and was expanding out towards Giza and the pyramids – just discernible on the distant horizon in this photo – that pre-date the city by 3,500 years.







**NEARLY 4,500  
YEARS OF  
HISTORY WERE  
CAPTURED IN  
THESE IMAGES  
AND WORDS**

## **WHAT A RELIEF**

### **WAR FRIEZES**

Rows of carved reliefs at the temple of Karnak near Luxor depict the battle victories of Sethos I (whose mummy is pictured on page 49) over Syrians, Libyans and Hittites. Karnak is the second-largest religious structure in the world, after Angkor Wat in Cambodia.



## **A BURIED TREASURE**

### **TEMPLE OF HATSHEPSUT**

This beautiful colonnaded temple, built in the 15th century BC by one of the few female pharaohs, Hatshepsut, had only recently been excavated when Breasted visited.



## **SON KING**

### **SETHOS AND RAMESES**

Pharaoh Sethos I and his son Ramesses II worship ancestors in this relief carved at Abydos. Breasted, an expert translator of hieroglyphics, realised that the cartouches at the right are the names of the 76 kings being honoured in the frieze.



## UPPER EGYPT

The area around ancient Thebes – now Luxor – is rich in temples and tombs...



## GRAVE SITUATION

### VALLEY OF THE KINGS

"What splendid desolation, what a noble valley of death encompassed by these silent mountains." So wrote Breasted of the valley in which at least 63 pharaohs and nobles were buried. He later helped Howard Carter decipher seals at Tutankamun's tomb.



## UNDERGROUND ART

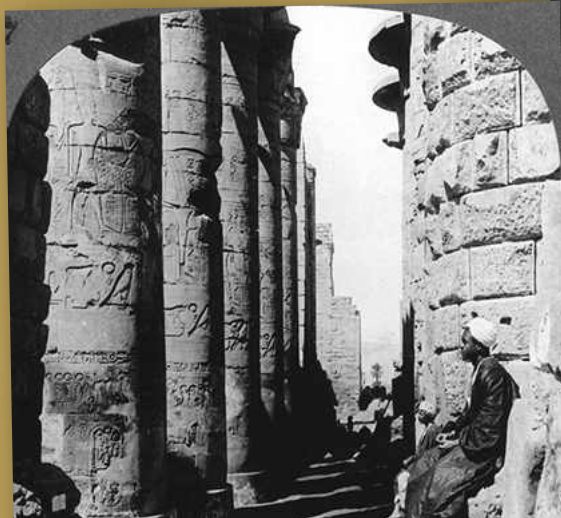
### THE TOMB OF VINES

The resting place of Sennefer, Mayor of Thebes, is named for its watercolour wall paintings, still vivid around 3,400 years after they were daubed. "Could you not believe that these colors were laid on yesterday?" Breasted asked in his text.

## KARNAK TEMPLE

### THE GREAT HYPOSTYLE HALL

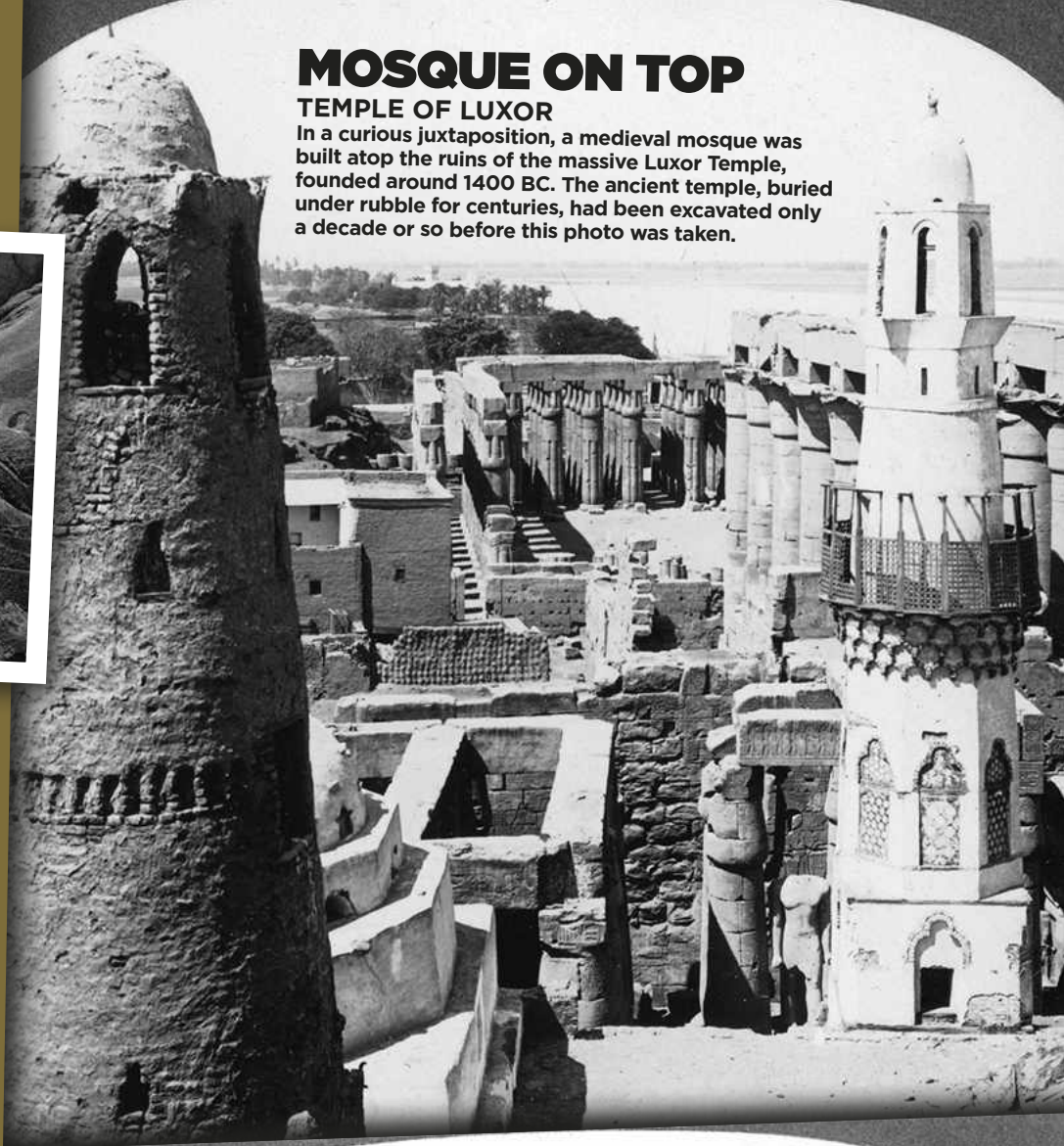
Some 134 ornately inscribed columns rise in rows above the great Hypostyle Hall at the Temple of Karnak near Luxor, many over 20m tall. In 1899, 11 of these columns toppled, one after another.



## MOSQUE ON TOP

### TEMPLE OF LUXOR

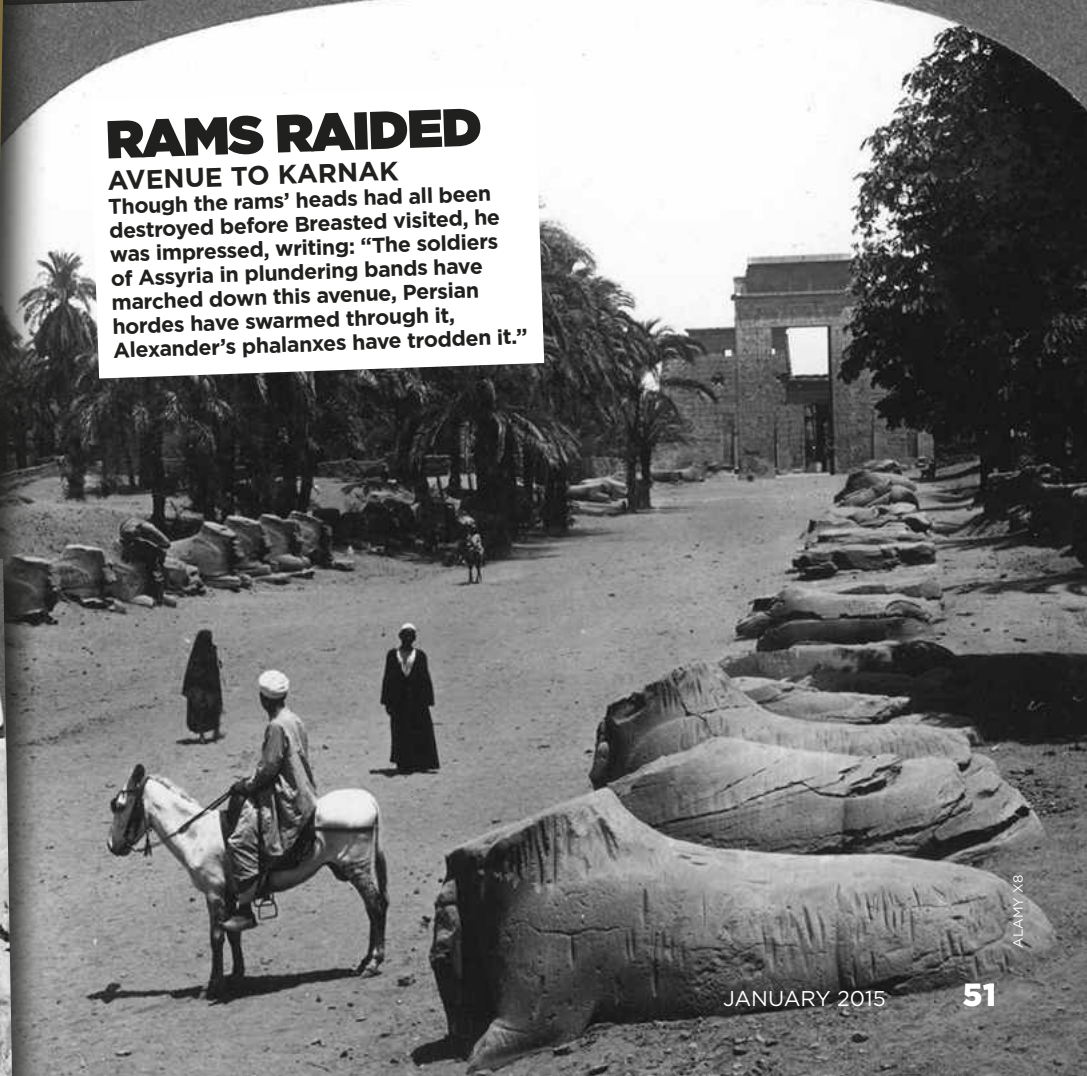
In a curious juxtaposition, a medieval mosque was built atop the ruins of the massive Luxor Temple, founded around 1400 BC. The ancient temple, buried under rubble for centuries, had been excavated only a decade or so before this photo was taken.



## RAMS RAIDED

### AVENUE TO KARNAK

Though the rams' heads had all been destroyed before Breasted visited, he was impressed, writing: "The soldiers of Assyria in plundering bands have marched down this avenue, Persian hordes have swarmed through it, Alexander's phalanxes have trodden it."







## IN PICTURES ANCIENT EGYPT ON CAMERA

### POWER OF FOUR

#### ABU SIMBEL

The quartet of statues depicting Pharaoh Ramesses II were carved out of the mountainside above Lake Nasser around 1264 BC. Incredibly, in 1968, when construction of the Aswan Dam threatened to flood the complex, its temples – including the colossal 20m statues – were relocated to a site 65m higher up the slope.

**“THESE COLOSSAL  
FIGURES LOOKING OUT  
LIKE IMPASSIVE GODS”**

AMERICAN EGYPTOLOGIST JAMES BREASTED



ALAMY X4

## THE NUBIAN NILE

Some of Egypt's most extraordinary sites stud the Nile above Luxor...

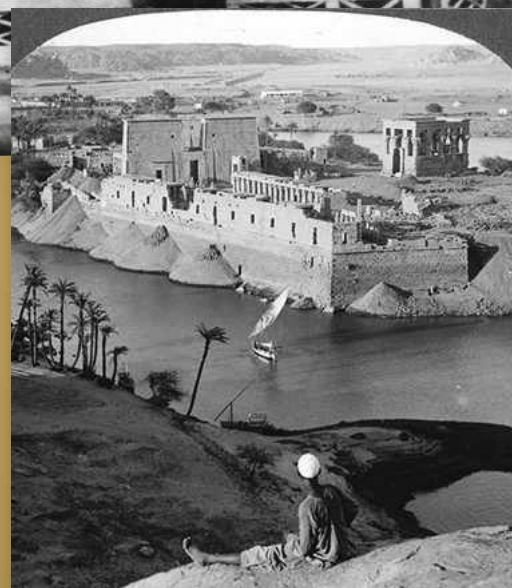


### FLOOD MEASURE

**NILOMETER AT THE FIRST CATARACT**  
On Elephantine Island, this ancient device, at least 2,000 years old, measures inundations – levels of seasonal flooding of the Nile.

### FAMINE RECORD

**ROCK INSCRIPTIONS, SEHEL ISLAND**  
This 2,000-year-old text describes an ancient famine. The inscriptions on rocks in the Nile represent, wrote Breasted, “the most ancient and the most interesting visitors’ book in the world”.



### SACRED ISLAND

**TEMPLES OF PHILAE ISLAND**  
These temples, mostly dating from the third century BC, were built by Ptolemaic pharaohs. Inscriptions on an obelisk from Philae were key in learning to decipher hieroglyphics.






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# Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

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• **HOW DID THEY DO THAT?** 60

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### EMILY BRAND

Historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)



### JULIAN HUMPHRYS

Development Officer for The Battlefields Trust and author



### GREG JENNER

*Horrible Histories* consultant and author of *A Million Years in a Day* (published 2015)



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**THAT SINKING FEELING**  
*Titanic* carried 20 lifeboats – but only 710 passengers were saved

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FROM RUSSIA WITH L'OEUF**

A gold Fabergé egg, lost after the Russian Revolution of 1917 and bought from an antiques stall for £8,000, recently sold for £20m. It's believed that two more such eggs, dubbed *Nécessaire* and *Cherub*, await discovery. Eyes peeled!

## WHY WERE SO FEW ON BOARD THE *TITANIC* RESCUED?



When the RMS *Titanic* sank on 15 April 1912, more than 1,500 people died.

The mighty ocean liner set sail with too few lifeboats to hold everyone on board. This decision was based on the assumption that – in the unlikely event she ran into trouble – other ships would come to the rescue. They didn't – but why?

There were two reasons. First, a miners' strike caused a shortage of high-grade steam coal in Britain, which meant that far fewer ships than usual were at sea in the North Atlantic. Under normal circumstances the *Titanic* might have expected to be in sight of two or three ships at all times – but those ships were simply not there.

The second reason was that not all ships had radios, and those that did have them did not man their radios 24 hours a day. At least two ships, the SS *Californian* and SS *Parisian*, could have reached *Titanic* in time to rescue everyone on board had they received the distress call – but the radio sets on both ships were switched off that night. **RM**


GETTY



# \$250m

Estimated price paid in 2011 for Paul Cézanne's *The Card Players*, dating from around 1892 – the highest amount ever paid for a painting.

## Why were the ninja so feared?

 The ninja were a group of mercenaries in medieval Japan who specialised in assassinations, spying and sabotage. Ninja were first recorded in the 15th century, but may have existed earlier. The first ninja came from a small group of villages in Iga Province, south-east of Kyoto. Their secrets, passed down from father to son, were jealously guarded from outsiders, but by the 18th century anyone could train as a ninja.

Some impressive examples were recorded of ninja using their skills to infiltrate enemy strongholds, spy and murder. But the roots of their enduring mystique lie in the elaborate tales of supernatural powers they spread to keep their methods secret. They claimed to be able to walk on water, fly, control animals, transform into birds or dogs, become invisible or split into several different ninja – fantastical tales that captured the popular imagination. **RM**



**ORDERED TO KILL**  
Herod reputedly ordered the slaughter of Bethlehem's babies

## Was King Herod really so bad?

 No ancient monarch was ever particularly 'good', but Herod I of Judea (reigned 37–4 BC) perhaps has a worse reputation than any other. Of Arab ethnicity, Herod owed his position in Judea to the backing of Romans, who had helped bring him to power. Determined to ape Rome, Herod developed a series of ambitious building projects, including the establishment of Caesarea as the main harbour and the rebuilding of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. His non-Jewish heritage did not sit well with the religious elite of Judea, though,

and some political factions saw him as little more than a puppet of Rome.

The later years of Herod's reign were marked by illness and paranoia, leading him to murder one of his wives and two of his sons. His chief claim to infamy, however, was the 'Massacre of the Innocents' – the infanticide designed to ensure the death of the prophesied newborn 'King of the Jews' – recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. This horrific event was not mentioned in any of the other gospels, nor by any contemporary Jewish source, and modern historians have cast doubt on whether it actually happened. Overall then, though a despot and tyrant, Herod was no worse than any other ruler of the period. **MR**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

### A LASS, POOR CHARLIE

After defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, Charles Edward Stuart ('Bonnie Prince Charlie') fled across the Highlands. Pursued onto the Isle of Skye, he escaped by disguising himself as a female Irish servant named 'Betty Burke'.


**I STILL BELIEVE, IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, THAT PEOPLE ARE TRULY GOOD AT HEART.**

ANNE FRANK, 15 JULY 1944

One of the most poignant lines in arguably the most famous diary in history reveals the conflicted emotions of a young teenager. Persecuted after the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands, in July 1942 Anne's family – along with four other Jews – hid in a secret annex above her father's Amsterdam offices. Just over two weeks after this entry, on 4 August 1944, the annex was stormed by German police and its occupants deported to concentration camps. Anne died in 1945 at Bergen-Belsen. She was just 15.



## WHAT WAS THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE?

 Modern historians use this name for the eastern Roman empire, which survived the barbarian migrations that tore apart the west in the fifth century AD. By the ninth century it had become a more medieval and overtly Christian state than the more 'Roman' entity that preceded it. The German historian Hieronymus Wolf crystallised the distinction by coining the term 'Byzantine', from the ancient Greek name for its capital city, Constantinople (now Istanbul), in his 1557 work *Corpus Historiae Byzantinae*. **MR**



## IN A NUTSHELL

# DEBTORS' PRISONS

The horror of the jails that imprisoned poor debtors inspired bestselling novel *The Devil in the Marshalsea*. But what were they really like?

**What were they?** They were institutions in which people who couldn't pay their debts were incarcerated. For centuries, these jails formed a key part of the British prison system.

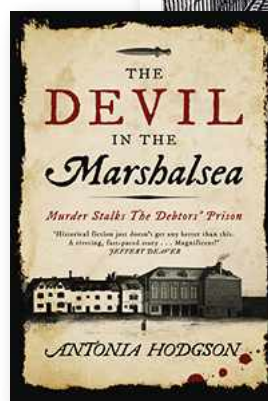
**When did they originate?** The system of throwing people into jail if they couldn't pay money they owed dates from medieval times. By the 18th and 19th centuries, thousands of people were incarcerated in this manner in Britain, and the inmates of a number of prisons – including the Fleet and the Marshalsea in London – were exclusively debtors.

**What kinds of people served time in these prisons?** Debt was a classless crime. Many people from the more 'respectable' sections of society found themselves in debtors' prisons, having spent more than they could afford just to keep up appearances. Because men were held responsible for households' financial matters, nearly all imprisoned debtors were male.

However, wives and children were sometimes forced to join their husbands and fathers in prison if they didn't have the means to support themselves. Traders who were unable to pay their creditors could be declared bankrupt, thereby usually avoiding jail, but for those with personal debts there was no such escape.

A number of famous names were recorded as inmates in debtors' prisons, including *Robinson Crusoe* author Daniel Defoe. Charles Dickens' father, John, spent a few months at the Marshalsea in 1824 because he owed a local baker £40. Charles – then aged just 12 – had to work at a shoe-polish factory to help support his father and other members of his family who had joined John in prison. It was a humiliating episode from which the author later drew inspiration for his novel *Little Dorrit*.

**What were conditions like in debtors' prisons?** In general, debtors were treated differently from regular prisoners, being allowed special privileges such as visiting rights. But

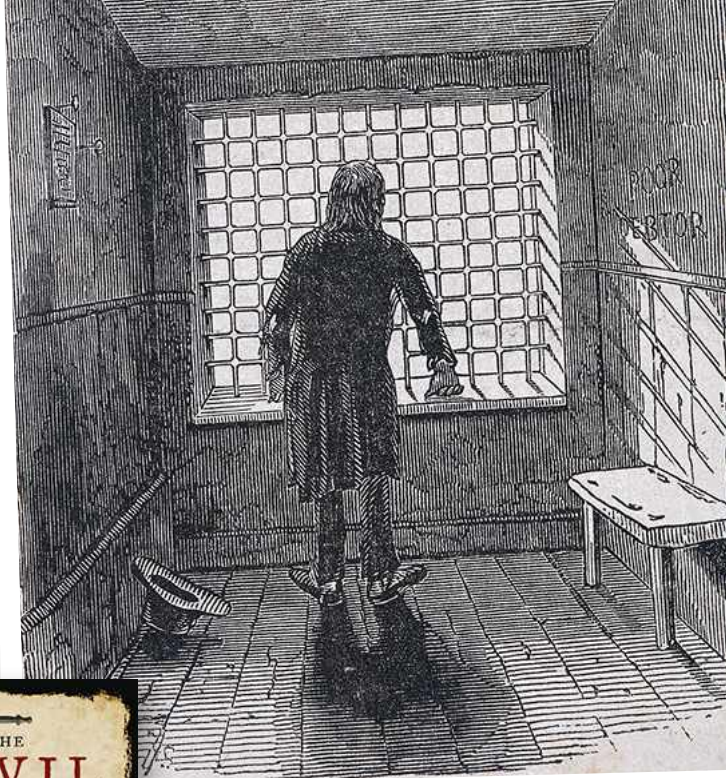


conditions varied enormously, depending largely on each debtor's financial situation.

The prisons were privately run institutions that charged their residents for board and lodgings. Those who had managed to prevent their creditors from taking all of their money, or who had wealthy friends who could support them, might live in reasonable comfort, taking advantage of bars, restaurants and cafés on site. There were even some instances of debtors being allowed – for a fee – to serve their time outside the prisons altogether, provided they remained nearby.

However, for those who were genuinely destitute, conditions could be intolerable. Inmates would resort to begging for coins from passers-by, and some starved to death. A parliamentary inquiry into

**DARK DAYS**  
Debtors in London's Whitecross Street Prison in the Victorian era lived in gloomy squalor, facing the threat of disease



**BEHIND BARS**  
An inmate's life in debtors' prison could be better if they had wealthy friends to help

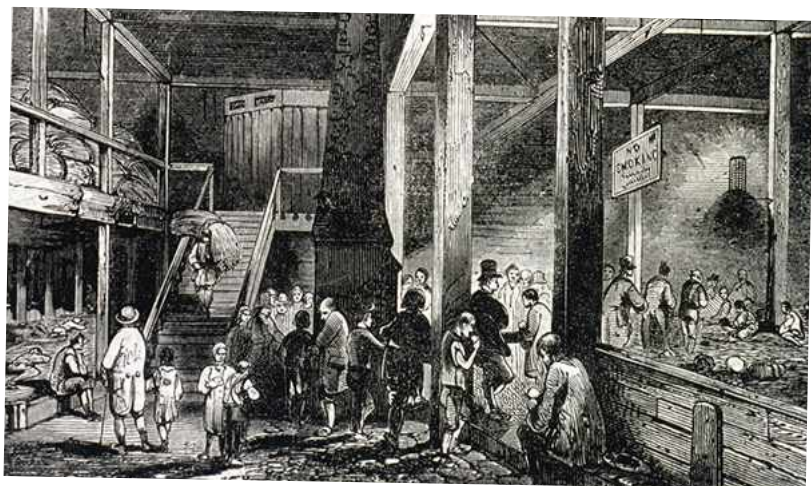
prison conditions in 1729–30 found such appalling treatment of poor debtors that it resulted in the prosecution of a number of prisonkeepers for murder.

**How would people get out of these prisons?**

Debtors were not like modern prisoners who serve fixed sentences. In many cases they could secure their release only when they had paid their debts or reached an agreement with their creditors. Because debtors had to pay to be housed within the prisons, their debts could actually increase while incarcerated, so some would spend years or even decades in jail. In the 18th and 19th centuries, a number of laws were passed that did enable a proportion of debtors to be released if they fulfilled certain conditions.

**When was this system abolished?**

The 1869 Debtors Act brought an end to debtors' prisons in the UK. Elsewhere in the world, though, the system persists in various forms. In recent decades, concerns have been raised about the system in the USA by which many people are jailed for failing to pay court fees – with some being charged for their prison stays.





## “WHY DO WE SAY...?”

### PLEASED AS PUNCH

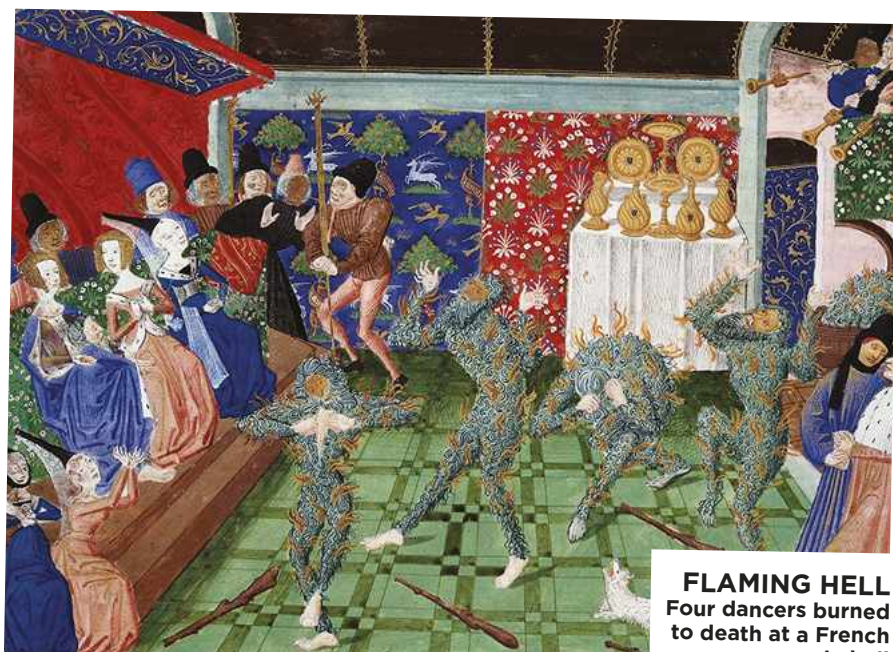
Who is this Punch to whom we insist on comparing our own happiness? And why are they so pleased with themselves? Warning: the answer may make you reluctant to declare yourself ‘pleased as punch’ ever again.

The Punch in question is the main character of the classic British seaside puppet farce – the grotesque and sadistic serial killer who dispatches everyone he meets with a giant stick while screeching: “That’s the way to do it!” The story of Punch and Judy, such as it is, changes depending on the puppeteer – or ‘Professor’. Over the centuries, Punch’s victims have included his wife, Judy, his own infant child, a policeman, a crocodile, a doctor, a hangman, a skeleton, Death and even the Devil. As the hook-nosed, squeaky-voiced Punch struts about his red-and-white puppet booth, he is clearly satisfied with his evil deeds – hence the expression.

Though the Punch and Judy show is most closely associated with the Victorian seaside, the male character originated in the 16th-century Italian theatre movement *commedia dell’arte*, in which he was named Pulcinella – or, in English, Punchinello. The first recorded performance of such a show in England was staged in the 1660s, when celebrated diarist Samuel Pepys described it as being “very pretty”.

# 160

The height in metres of Lincoln Cathedral’s medieval spire. Until that collapsed in 1549, the cathedral was the tallest building in the world.



**FLAMING HELL**  
Four dancers burned to death at a French masquerade ball

## WHAT WAS THE BALL OF THE BURNING MEN?

In an unlikely sequence of events, what began as a joyful royal celebration in medieval France ended in a tragedy that claimed the lives of four people.

On 28 January 1393, a masquerade ball was held at the French royal court to celebrate the marriage of one of the Queen’s ladies-in-waiting. The young King Charles VI and five of his noble

companions performed a dance as ‘wild men’, disguised in masks and shaggy costumes made from linen and resin.

Late, and somewhat intoxicated, the Duke of Orleans arrived carrying a lit torch, being unaware of the strict prohibitions

on bringing naked flames into the hall. One account describes how he then ‘threw’ the torch at the dancers, but others suggest he simply came too close to them while trying to guess their identities. Whatever the case, the dancers’ highly flammable costumes soon became engulfed in flames. The King, standing a little apart, was saved when his teenage aunt threw her skirts over him to put out the fire. Another dancer leapt into a vat of wine.

The other four performers were less fortunate, being “burned alive... releasing a stream of blood”. The tragedy shook public confidence in the monarchy – destroying the reputation of the Duke of Orleans, in particular – and became known as the ‘Bal des Ardents’, or the ‘Ball of the Burning Men’. EB



**BRIT POPE**  
Nicholas Breakspear became the only English Pope in 1154

## HAS THERE EVER BEEN AN ENGLISH POPE?

Just one – Nicholas Breakspear, who became Pope Adrian IV in 1154. Breakspear was born around 1100 in humble circumstances at Abbots Langley in Hertfordshire, but didn’t spend much of his life in England. He studied in Paris, then joined the Abbey of St Rufus in Provence, where he was elected abbot. He seems to have been able and hardworking. Made cardinal by Pope Eugenius III, he was sent to Scandinavia to reorganise the church there. After that success, he was elected Pope after

Eugenius’ successor, Anastasius IV, died, taking the name Adrian IV

It was a difficult time to be Pope. Adrian had to deal with revolts in Rome, problems with the Normans in the south of Italy, and a quarrel with the Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick Barbarossa. He is rather a controversial figure in the history of the British Isles because he also apparently gave King Henry II of England papal approval for the conquest of Ireland. He died in 1159. JH



**BATTLE OF THE BOTTLE**  
Victorian temperance cartoons  
showed alcohol fuelling  
murderous rages



## WHERE DID BANOFFEE PIE COME FROM?

Inspired by schoolboy experiments boiling condensed milk inside the can to create toffee, it took Ian Dowding and Nigel Mackenzie of the Hungry Monk restaurant in Jevington, East Sussex, two years to perfect their new gut-busting dessert recipe. After numerous abortive attempts with various 'wrong' fruits, including some unpleasantness with cooked bananas, 'Banoffi' Pie was introduced to pudding lovers in 1972. However, they never bothered to copyright the name - a lesson for us all... SL



## Did Britain ever have any form of **prohibition**?

The first of many societies advocating temperance, opposing drunkenness and excessive consumption of spirits, was established in the 1830s. As the movement grew, many began to encourage total abstinence as part of the 19th-century zeal for social and moral reform.

The movement gave rise to magazines, hotels, cautionary art and literature, marches and public lectures, and the promotion of alternatives such as milk and tea. The politically minded argued that the working classes, who were seeking the vote, would gain respectability by embracing sobriety.

Despite the apparent success of such moral persuasion, attempts to set this in law - such as the 1854 Sale of Beer Act, limiting Sunday opening hours - led to widespread rioting, and calls for prohibition were met with open hostility well into the 20th century. EB

## Could a **woman** **become a knight** in medieval times?

A medieval knight had a number of set roles and duties - not least to fight in battle and lead men to war. As a result, it was usual for knights to be men who had trained for warfare from an early age. However, the situation wasn't quite so clear-cut.

Any man who held enough land to afford the cost of arms and armour, and to take time away from his estates to join the army, was expected to be a knight. He would have to turn up at any military muster, mounted and armed, and very often would bring a retinue of men at arms or archers. The king also expected knights to maintain law and order, ensure taxes were paid, and keep roads repaired and river crossings usable.

When a dead knight's land passed to his wife or daughter, these duties were imposed on that woman. In England the title of Lady was usually given to such a woman, but in France, Tuscany and Romagna she was given the male title. In 1358, women finally gained full knightly acceptance in England when they began to be admitted to chivalric orders - though they are called dames, not knights. RM



**CHAIN MALE**  
Women inherited  
knightly duties -  
though not fighting

## DID YOU KNOW?

### VICTORY CRY

In 368 BC, the Spartans faced the Arcadians in battle. According to legend, the Spartan army advanced on its enemy, halted, then let rip with its deafening battle cry. Terrified, the entire Arcadian army promptly turned and fled.



### CROSS PURPOSES

Twelve Eleanor Crosses were built to commemorate the queen of Edward I

## WHAT WERE THE ELEANOR CROSSES?

When Edward I's wife, Eleanor of Castile, died near Lincoln in November 1290, the grief-stricken King gave orders for her body to be brought back to Westminster for burial. The journey took 12 days, and Edward decreed that a stone monument should be erected to mark each of the places where her coffin rested for the night en route. Though they're called crosses, they were in fact pointed monuments incorporating heraldry and statues of the late Queen. Of the original monuments built, three still survive - at Geddington and Hardingstone, both in Northamptonshire, and at Waltham Cross in Hertfordshire. JH



## HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

## THE TAJ MAHAL

The marble marvel is the world's most famous monument to love



The Taj Mahal is famous for being the mausoleum of Arjumand Banu Begum – best known as Mumtaz Mahal, favourite wife of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan – who died giving birth to her 14th child. But though her domed white marble tomb is the centrepiece, the Taj is actually a complex

of buildings and grounds, artfully blending Islamic, Persian, Hindu and Ottoman styles. Built between 1631 and 1653 by the banks of the Yamuna River in the city of Agra, the construction of the Taj Mahal involved some 20,000 workers and incorporated materials from China, Tibet, Sri Lanka and Arabia.

## DOME AND FINIAL

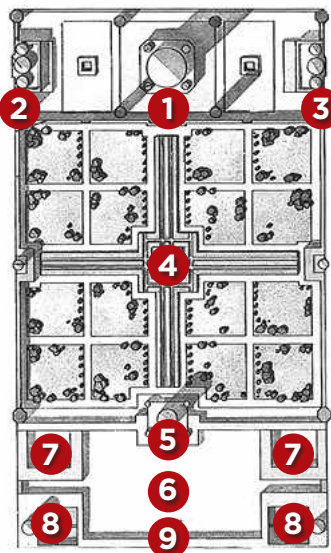
The white marble dome is 35m high, but seems taller, sitting on a 7m-high drum. Like the *chhatris*, *minarets* and *guldastas*, it's topped with a lotus design and bronze finial (replacing the original gold finial).

## GULDASTA

Tall, slender *guldastas* – decorative spires – rise from the edges of the mausoleum's walls.

## SITE MAP

- 1 Mausoleum
- 2 Mosque
- 3 Mihmankhana (guesthouse)
- 4 Charbagh (formal garden)
- 5 Darwaza-i-Rauza (Great Gate)
- 6 Jilaukhana (forecourt)
- 7 Khawasspuras (tomb attendants' quarters)
- 8 Saheli Burj (subsidiary tombs)
- 9 Outer gate to Taj Ganj



## DECORATION

Islam prohibits images of living creatures, so the decorations – created with paint, stucco, inlays or carving – comprise calligraphy, plant forms or abstract patterns.

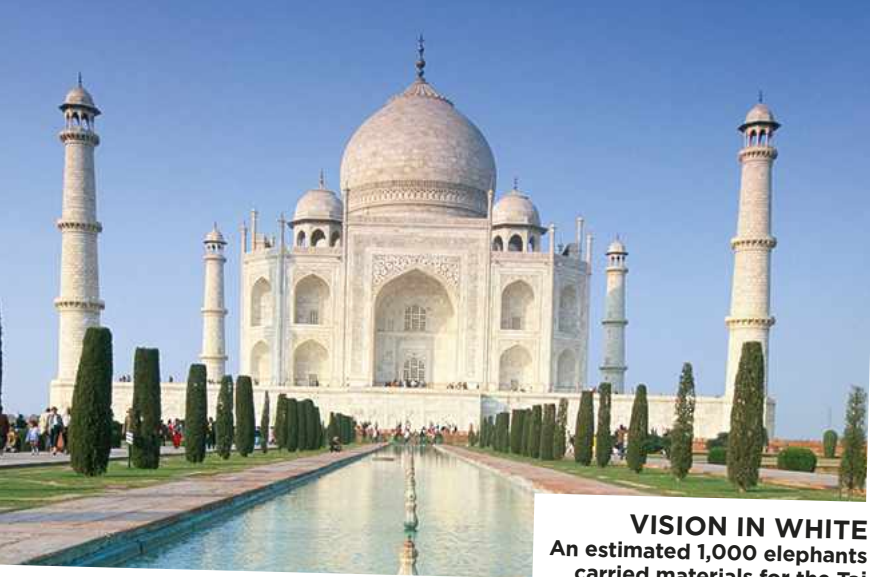
## CHHATTRI

Four open-sided *chhatris* (kiosks) surround the central dome. Their open bases allow light into the interior of the mausoleum.

## THE PLINTH

The base of the mausoleum is unusually high, ensuring that it stands taller than surrounding structures.





**VISION IN WHITE**  
An estimated 1,000 elephants carried materials for the Taj

## MUGHAL GARDEN

Facing the mausoleum is a huge *charbagh* or formal Mughal garden, about 300m along each edge. Raised pathways divide the garden into four sections, representing the four rivers of paradise. It originally incorporated 16 flowerbeds, which were largely replaced by lawns by the British during the Raj. At the centre, midway between the Great Gate and the tomb, is a marble pond in which the mausoleum is beautifully reflected.

## CALLIGRAPHY

The arches are framed by carefully chosen verses from the Qur'an in beautifully stylised calligraphy, inlaid in black marble. These were prepared by Persian calligrapher Abd ul-Haq.

## IWAN AND PISHTAQ

Each side of the building is pierced by an *pishtaq* (arched doorway) framed by a huge *iwan* (vaulted monumental porch) with two-level arched balconies on either side, adding depth and symmetry.

## MINARET

Each of the four minarets is over 40m tall, topped with a *chhattri* (domed kiosk) to echo those on the main mausoleum. They are all identical, enhancing the symmetry of the design.

## FUNERARY CHAMBER

A pair of ornately decorated cenotaphs lie side-by-side in the central chamber, honouring Mumtaz Mahal and her husband, Shah Jahan, who died in 1666 and was buried here by his son Aurangzeb. Neither of them actually lies within these monuments – they're actually buried in a simple crypt beneath this main chamber.

## MARBLE JALI

An intricate octagonal *jali* (screen) surrounds the two cenotaphs. This was carved from eight marble slabs and inlaid with semi-precious stones depicting vines, flowers and fruits.

**EMPTY PROMISES**  
The richly decorated cenotaphs don't actually house the bodies



9

Sackfuls of severed ears reputedly collected by the Mongol army, victors at the Battle of Liegnitz (1241). This gruesome haul was their method of counting their slain European enemies.

## When was the **last** armed revolt in Britain?



The famous Newport Rising, which occurred in Monmouthshire in 1839, was an ugly offshoot of the Chartist movement demanding the vote for working-class men. Though action was long planned, the revolt quickly escalated when key Welsh Chartists were detained in a Newport hotel. Hearing this, an armed mob of perhaps 5,000 went to liberate them, and opened fire on the local yeomanry. The soldiers retaliated, killing around 20, and the mob soon fled in panic. The ringleaders were sentenced to death, but this was later commuted to transportation. Some contemporary conspiracy theorists feared that this uprising was just the beginning of a sinister Russian invasion plot, and that the whole nation would soon be under attack. GJ



**WELSH REBELS**  
Angry Chartists battled armed soldiers in Newport

## What were Julius Caesar's last words?



Shakespeare has Caesar uttering “*Et tu, Brute?*” [You too, Brutus?] Then fall, Caesar!” as he is brought down by assassins’ daggers in the Senate. This is not merely artistic licence. The Roman historian Suetonius, writing a century and a half after the event, records the dictator’s last words as “you too, my son” (uttered in Greek rather than Latin) and, indeed, directed at his friend Brutus. Given Caesar’s character, however, they were unlikely to have been directed in sorrow or regret, as is usually believed, but in the form of a curse – “And the same to you!” MR

**“Et tu, Brute?”**



## WHAT WAS THE FIRST PUBLISHED BOOK IN ENGLISH BY A WOMAN?



A work now known as *Revelations of Divine Love* was written around 1393 by a female Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich. During a serious illness 20 years earlier, she had experienced a series of 16 visions of the Crucified Christ, and since then had felt compelled to pursue a solitary life of religious devotion. It is unknown exactly why she chose to publish her experiences in Middle English rather than Latin, but it brought her some renown when it was published – and is still in print today. EB



## HOW MANY ENGLISH KINGS HAVE BEEN CALLED HENRY?



Henry VIII was the last king to bear that name – but he was actually the ninth. Henry II (reigned 1154-89) had grown up in France, where royal apprenticeships were customary. Hence, in 1170, he decided that his eldest son would be crowned as Henry the Young King – a junior co-monarch – to learn the art of kingship. Young Henry died before his father and, even though he had been crowned, never took the title Henry III. That title instead went to the son of King John. GJ

## WHAT IS IT?



Made from animal hide, beautifully embroidered and adorned with glass beads, this colourful creation isn’t a shoe or even a mask. It’s a cradleboard – a carrying-case for babies. An infant would be placed into its padded interior and strapped to its mother’s back to be carried around while she travelled or worked. The footrest supported the baby’s feet, and the hood provided shade from the powerful Sun.

Cradleboards were widely used by the indigenous peoples of North and Central America. This one was made in the mid-19th century, probably by the Kiowa tribe at around the time they settled in south-western Oklahoma, having migrated south through the Rocky Mountains from Montana over the previous two centuries.

It’s now displayed in Birmingham Museum of Art in Alabama. artsbma.org

**BABY ON BOARD**  
Mothers of Native American babies carried their infants in decorated cradleboards







## DID YOU KNOW?

### SLAVE STATE

At its peak around the early first century AD, the population of the city of Rome had risen to around a million people – at least a third of whom were slaves. Some estimates suggest that the total slave population of the Roman Empire reached five million.

### ROAR POWER

Leather-clad 'Ton-Up Boys' were the forerunners of greasers, or rockers



# Who were the Ton-Up Boys?



With post-war teenagers aching for excitement and post-war A roads comparatively quiet, it was only a matter of time before the two collided. Cars were too expensive for even the newly wealthy young people of the 1950s, so they

souped up their motorcycles – and a subculture was born.

Ton-Up Boys, those who could speed their bikes over a 'ton' (100mph), also became known as 'rockers' or 'greasers'. Styling themselves on Marlon Brando in *The Wild One*, they rebelled

against authority – and society was outraged. Between death-defying races, 'café racers' hung around transport 'caffs' listening to rock'n'roll music. Most famous of all was London's Ace Café, which served coffee, music and greasy-spoon specials until it closed in 1969. After a grass-roots campaign, it re-opened in 1997 and now attracts thousands of bikers from around the world each year. **SL**



## DO EPSOM SALTS ACTUALLY COME FROM EPSOM?



Epsom's 'medicinal wells', springs rising where North Downs chalk meets London clay to produce magnesium sulphate, were discovered in the early 17th century. The 'purging waters' were notoriously bitter, but patients drank up to 16 pints. Samuel Pepys, King Charles II and Nell Gwyn took the waters, but Epsom didn't stay in vogue for long. It was overtaken by other spa towns with more reliable supplies of mineral water, such as Bath and Buxton.

By the early 18th century, 'Epsom Salts' (magnesium sulphate crystals) were manufactured, though are now produced elsewhere. The original spring, recapped in 1989, remains in the middle of a housing estate at the edge of town. **SL**

# 5%

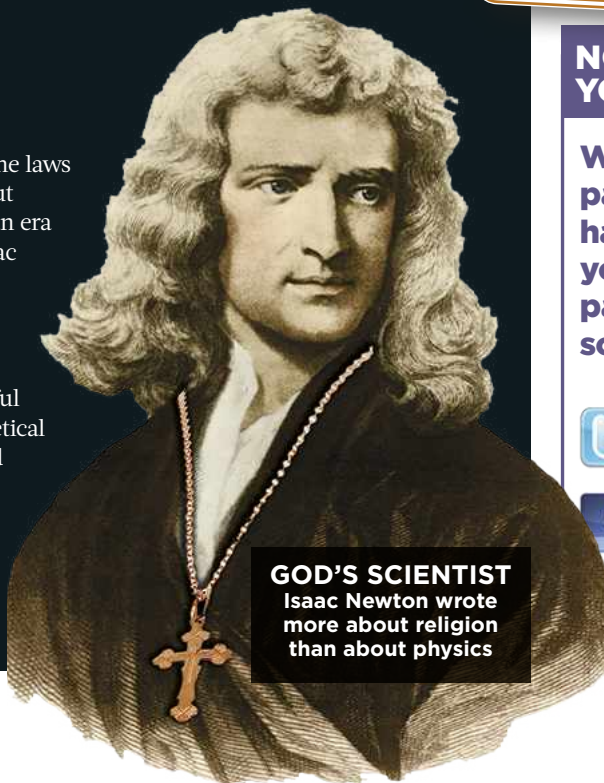
The proportion of civilians among the casualties during World War I

# Was Isaac Newton religious?



Britain's greatest physicist, who formulated the laws of gravity and of motion, wrote far more about religion than about science. Indeed, even in an era when almost everyone had faith of some kind, Sir Isaac Newton was exceptional for the intensity of his.

Newton wrote some two million words on subjects including Biblical interpretation, the Holy Trinity and the idea that the Universe "could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful being". Though he possessed some radical, almost heretical views, he also wrote strongly to condemn atheism, and argued that ancient temples – such as Stonehenge – had been built along heavenly patterns in the worship of the creator God. Most surprising of all, Newton pored over Biblical texts looking for clues prophesying future events, and predicted that the Apocalypse would come in the year 2060. **GJ**



**GOD'S SCIENTIST**  
Isaac Newton wrote more about religion than about physics

## NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

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## GREAT ADVENTURES KON-TIKI EXPEDITION

### STUBBORN KINDA FELLOW

Norwegian ethnographer  
Thor Heyerdahl set to sea in a  
raft in order to prove a point

# THE *KON-TIKI* VOYAGE

In 1947, Thor Heyerdahl and his hardy crew sailed a basic balsa-wood raft across the Pacific to Polynesia.

**Pat Kinsella** describes their extraordinary odyssey...



“The world was simple  
– stars in the darkness.  
Whether it was 1947 BC  
or AD **suddenly  
became of no  
significance.**”

*Thor Heyerdahl*







## GREAT ADVENTURES KON-TIKI EXPEDITION

**M**ost academics, when their theories are disputed, react by writing prickly articles in journals. Not so Thor Heyerdahl, a Norwegian ethnographer with an adventurous streak a mile wide.

During World War II, Heyerdahl developed a theory that Polynesia had been populated by a fair-skinned race from South America. Driven away by the Inca, these people had, he asserted, sailed rafts across the Pacific Ocean from Peru to the Tuamotu Archipelago – a voyage of 4,300 nautical miles. He further proposed that they had reached places as far flung as Easter Island, Hawaii and New Zealand. His ideas were fuelled by pre-Incan legends about the sun god, Viracocha – also known as Kon-Tiki – and historical reports from Spanish conquistadors and explorers such as Jacob Roggeveen, the Dutchman who discovered Easter Island in 1722.

His ideas were met with derision by most anthropologists, who held that Polynesia had been populated from the west – from Asia – not from the east. In addition to well-established biological, ethnological and linguistic evidence, his detractors asserted that early civilisations were incapable of travelling such vast distances across the Pacific on primitive craft.

Heyerdahl, who'd served with the Norwegian Armed Forces in exile during World War II, was a man of action, not merely theories. So when a leading academic at a New York museum refused to read his migration-theory manuscript, and added: "Well, you can try a trip from Peru to the Pacific Islands on a balsa-wood raft," that's what he set out to do.

### CALL FOR CREW

Heyerdahl decided he'd need five crewmates, all willing to risk their lives to validate a much-disputed idea – for no reward. Fortunately, in that heady post-war period, such men seemed to be in no short supply.

Herman Watzinger, an engineer, signed up after a brief conversation with Heyerdahl in a New York canteen. Neither knew anything practical about seafaring, so Heyerdahl invited a childhood friend, Erik Hesselberg, who'd trained in navigation and spent five years as a sailor. He also approached two Norwegian radio operators, Knut Haugland and Torstein Raaby. His telegram to the three of them was blunt:

"Am going to cross Pacific on a wooden raft... Will you come? I guarantee nothing but a free trip to Peru and the South Sea islands and back, and you will find good use for your technical abilities on the voyage. Reply at once."

They did. All three were in.

The sixth crewmember – Swedish sociologist Bengt Danielsson, who'd just completed a research expedition in the Amazon – joined in Lima. "I knew nothing about the man," Heyerdahl wrote, "But if a solitary Swede had the pluck to go out on a raft with five Norwegians, he could not be squeamish."

### THE MAIN PLAYERS



#### THOR HEYERDAHL

The explorer, author and ethnologist undertook several more long-distance ocean expeditions after the *Kon-Tiki* voyage – despite only learning to swim at 22.



#### HERMAN WATZINGER

An engineer and the raft's second-in-command, Watzinger took meteorological and hydrographic measurements, collecting vast amounts of data on the trip.



#### ERIK HESSELBERG

Heyerdahl's childhood friend, and the only experienced sailor on board, Hesselberg acted as navigator and expedition artist.

#### BENGT DANIELSSON

Swedish sociologist Danielsson spoke Spanish and organised supplies. He returned to live on Raroia with his French wife.

#### KNUT HAUGLAND

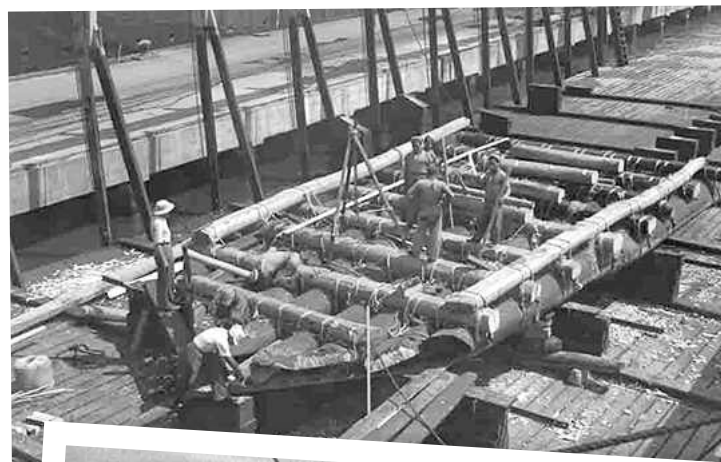
A radio expert on the *Kon-Tiki*, Haugland was highly decorated for his resistance activities during World War II.

#### TORSTEIN RAABY

The *Kon-Tiki*'s chief radio operator had also worked with Norway's wartime resistance fighters.

### ANCIENT METHODS

BELOW AND FAR BELOW: The main hull of the *Kon-Tiki* was nine balsa tree trunks lashed together with 300 hemp ropes, its sail billowing from an A-frame mast. No metal was used in its construction  
MAIN: A 6-metre-long oar of fir and mangrove wood at the back of the raft acted as a basic rudder – but the *Kon-Tiki* was largely reliant on favourable currents and winds



"In fighting nature man can win every battle **except the last.**"







## VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

**LEFT: Erik Hesselberg, the only sailor among the crew, picks out a tune on his guitar**  
**ABOVE: This snake-mackerel, never previously observed alive, leaped aboard the raft**

In South America in early 1947, in between organising funding and permissions, the team began building a raft based on old Spanish illustrations. The design was basic: nine long balsa-wood logs, pointed at one end and lashed together with hemp rope, with eight shorter cross logs. A rudimentary bamboo cabin was constructed, and a single square sail was set between two mangrove-wood masts. Five planks of pine were driven down through the logs to act as keels and stop the raft drifting sideways, and a 6-metre steering oar protruded from the back.

**200**

Number of coconuts carried on the voyage, along with sweet potatoes and gourds

Heyerdahl insisted that only materials available to the ancients could be used, despite assertions by various experts that the raft would fall apart within weeks. The crew's death was considered inevitable in many quarters, but the American navy still asked them to test new devices and products – including shark repellent.

Initially reluctant to use any modern equipment, Heyerdahl was eventually swayed by Hesselberg's argument that technical instruments such as a wireless would only affect the experiment if they were used to change the course of the raft.

On 28 April 1947, the raft – named *Kon-Tiki* after the pre-Incan sun god – left the Peruvian port of Callao, towed out of port by a tug. Once far enough out to sea to avoid collisions with other boats, the raft was released ready to begin the voyage.

## AT THE MERCY OF THE OCEAN

The *Kon-Tiki* was soon caught up in the Humboldt Current, which propelled it deep into the Pacific. Once being carried forward by the current, turning around was impossible. Heyerdahl and his companions were on a one-way, do-or-die mission to Polynesia, with no safety net or plan B.

During the first week, mountainous seas battered the raft. The crew huddled in the tiny cabin, clung to the steering oar and prayed to the gods that their raft would hold together and stay upright. Fortunately, it did, though the sail was nearly destroyed and two men were







# GREAT ADVENTURES KON-TIKI EXPEDITION

almost tossed overboard when the raft was set spinning by a errant wave one dark night.

When conditions finally calmed, the sleep-deprived adventurers measured their position. They discovered that currents and south-east trade winds were combining to drag them closer towards the Galápagos Islands than they'd intended. So be it. Though some steering was possible, the *Kon-Tiki* was largely at the mercy of these forces.

Food was one factor the crew didn't need to worry about. They feasted on fresh fish and seafood. Flying fish leapt aboard, virtually into the frying pan on several occasions, and the men caught everything from dorado (mahi-mahi or dolphinfish) to sharks.

Numerous denizens of the deep visited the *Kon-Tiki* – squid, colossal rays and the biggest

fish in the ocean, the whale shark. Twice as long as the raft, that behemoth loomed out of the blue while Haugland was washing his pants.

The crew spotted countless whales, were boarded by octopuses, picked up a retinue of pilot fish and discovered a stowaway in the shape of a crab, who they named Johannes. Several times, too, they observed enormous unidentified dark shapes in the water alongside the raft.

They never saw other boats, being well away from standard shipping routes, and never caught sight of land. When repairs were required or the ropes needed checking, there was no alternative but for one of the men to swim beneath the raft, taking his chances with whatever dangers lurked down there. After one particularly close

encounter with a big blue shark, the men built a rudimentary diving cage from bamboo.

Remarkably, Hesselberg was able to develop some of his photos on the raft. Raaby and Haugland made faint contact with radio hams in the US, Oslo and the Cook Islands, but the closest thing to a safety net the crew had was a tiny rubber dinghy that, at a pinch, could carry them for a few hours if the raft disintegrated.

The *Kon-Tiki* often sailed perilously close to disaster, not least when freak waves threatened to drown the crew. On one occasion, Watzinger was washed overboard in heavy seas and almost left behind. Haugland dived in with a rope and saved him – but then both men were almost taken by a shark as they were being pulled in.

## CATCH OF THE DAY

BELOW: The crew didn't want for food – they caught plenty of fish, including many sharks  
RIGHT: Fourteen weeks at sea brought the men close together

ILLUSTRATION: DAWN COOPER, GETTY XI, THE KON-TIKI MUSEUM X3



### 4 21 JULY 1947

Herman Watzinger loses his footing and is swept overboard, putting his life in serious danger. Knut Haugland leaps in and both men are hauled to safety – though a shark swallows a sleeping bag that's also fallen in the water.

### 5 30 JULY 1947

Land is seen for the first time since the *Kon-Tiki* left Peru – the atoll of Puka-Puka, most north-easterly outpost of the Tuamotu archipelago. But the men are unable to steer the raft towards it.

### 6 2 AUGUST 1947

The crew tries to land the *Kon-Tiki* on the island of Fangatau, with the help of some locals in canoes. Currents and the reef combine to thwart their attempts, though Haugland spends a little time on shore.

### 7 7 AUGUST 1947

Land! The *Kon-Tiki* is smashed against the vicious reef surrounding Raroia, one of the largest Tuamotu atolls. Swede Bengt Danielsson is concussed, but the six men suffer only minor injuries.

### 8 18 SEPTEMBER 1947

The *Kon-Tiki* arrives in Papeete, on the island of Tahiti, where the raft and her crew are picked up by the Norwegian steamer *Thor I* and taken to San Francisco.





On 30 July, Watzinger woke the crew with an excited shout: "Land!" He'd spied Puka-Puka, the north-easternmost outpost of the Tuamotu archipelago. But the *Kon-Tiki* drifted past the atoll before the men could manoeuvre the cumbersome raft towards the island.

Three days later, they arrived at Fangatau. While looking for an opening in the reef around the atoll, they were approached by a canoe from which, to their surprise, emerged a shout: "Good night!" This was the extent of that man's English, but he rallied more canoes to assist the *Kon-Tiki* to land.

Boarding a canoe, Haugland headed to the shore to enlist more help, but in his absence, the *Kon-Tiki* was pushed out to sea. It was only after several fraught hours that he persuaded the locals to paddle him back to the raft, to the crew's relief.

## CRASH LANDING

By 7 August, the crew found themselves being swept towards the reef around Raroia, one of the largest atolls in the archipelago. Alert to the danger they faced from an uncontrolled landing,

Torstein contacted a radio operator in Rarotonga and instructed him to raise the alarm if nothing was heard from the Scandinavians within 36 hours. Just minutes after that message was sent, the *Kon-Tiki* crashed into the reef.

The impact was violent, but the crew suffered only minor injuries – and found themselves shipwrecked on a paradisiacal Pacific island. After 101 days at sea, they'd washed ashore on an uninhabited islet. A few days later, men from the main atoll found them. The French-speaking native chief was utterly incredulous that they'd arrived on a raft, and welcomed them to his village.

The men were adopted by the tribe and given Polynesian names, and endeared themselves to the villagers by saving the life of a sick boy, giving him penicillin. After a couple of weeks, the French schooner *Tamara* arrived to take them – and the remains of the *Kon-Tiki* – to Tahiti, from where the Norwegian steamer *Thor I* carried them back to America.

What was the legacy of the voyage? Heyerdahl's theories about

migration remain disputed by mainstream anthropologists, but he proved one thing beyond doubt: it is possible to reach Polynesia from South America aboard a rudimentary raft. 📍

**1,136**

Litres of fresh water carried on the raft in 56 water cans, along with a number of sealed bamboo tubes

## GET HOOKED

### BOOK & FILM

Heyerdahl's book *The Kon-Tiki Expedition* (1948) was made into the 2012 film *Kon-Tiki*.

### BOAT

Visit the wreckage of the real raft at the Kon-Tiki Museum in Oslo. [www.kon-tiki.no](http://www.kon-tiki.no)

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Did Heyerdahl's exploits prove that people sailed to Polynesia on balsa rafts? Let us know what you think...

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

### 2 10 JUNE 1947

At the most northerly point of the voyage (6°19'S), Heyerdahl realises that the *Kon-Tiki* has strayed closer to the equator than planned, and fears they might sail north of the Marquesas and miss land altogether.

### 1 28 APRIL 1947

Launch: amid scenes of near chaos, most of the crew are almost left behind. The *Kon-Tiki* is towed from the Peruvian port of Callao and, 50 miles out to sea, cut free to begin the voyage.

### 3 3 JULY 1947

Signs of land appear. Despite being 1,000 miles east of Polynesia, frigatebirds are spotted. Shortly afterwards, a shark caught by the crew regurgitates an undigested starfish, suggesting that the raft is approaching land.







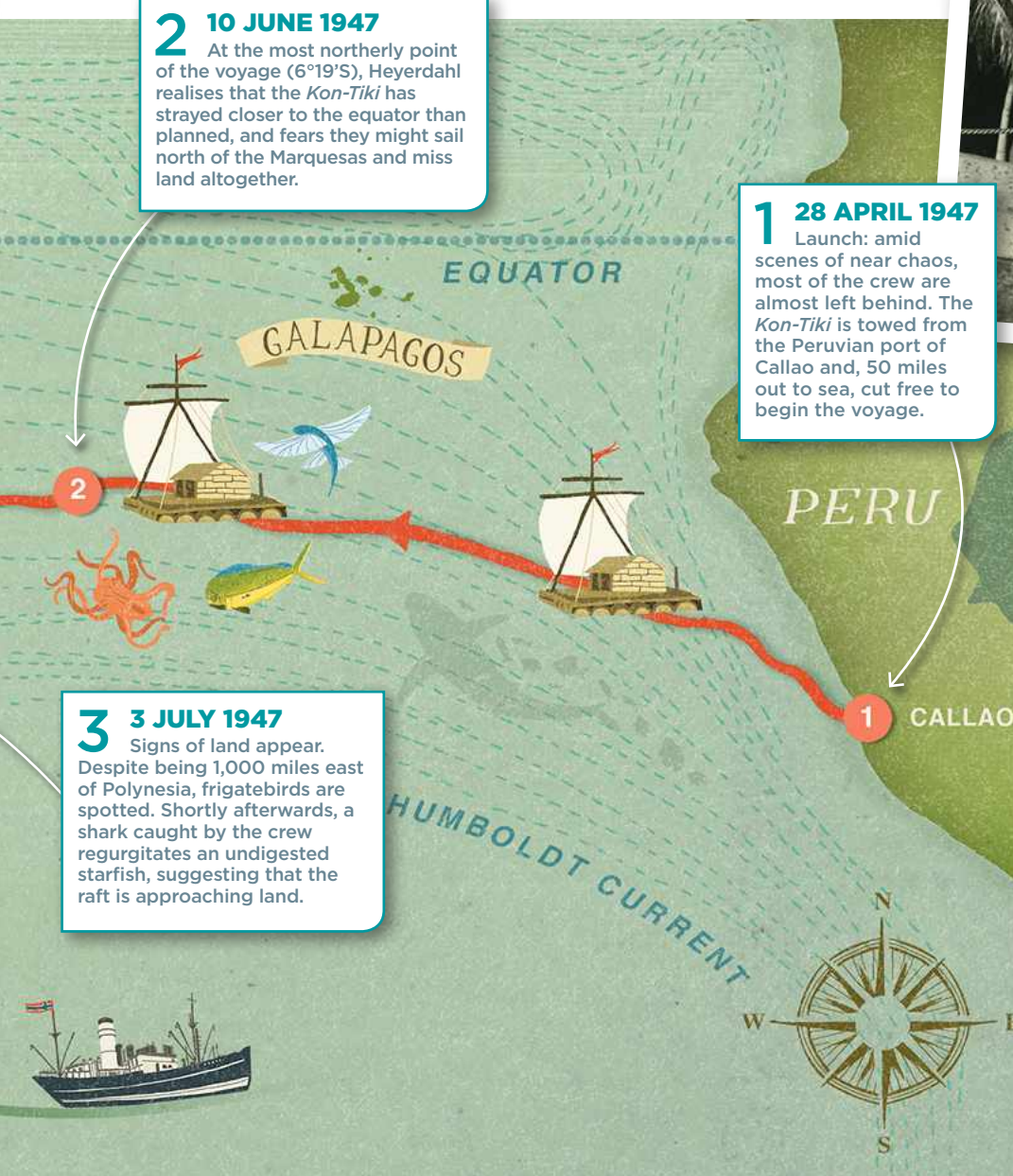
**SOUTH PACIFIC**  
After landing on Raroia, the crew were adopted by Polynesian villagers



## GEOGRAPHY

Heyerdahl believed that even a basic raft with minimal steering could ride a combination of currents and trade winds across the Pacific. The *Kon-Tiki* was taken much closer to the equator than expected, and at one point the crew were worried that they would miss the Pacific islands altogether.

-  OUTBOUND ROUTE
-  RETURN ROUTE
-  CURRENT
-  CRASH







THE HISTORY MAKERS  
ALEXANDER  
THE GREAT



ALAMY X2

# ALEXANDER THE GREAT THE EMPIRE BUILDER

How did a young king from Macedon inspire his modest army to conquer a domain that spanned the ancient world? **Jeremy Pound** reveals the secrets behind the man – and his downfall



**WANDERING WARRIOR**  
Alexander rampaged across  
Asia and Egypt to create  
a huge empire







### ARISTOTLE (384-322 BC)

Macedon's most famous son (after Alexander himself, of course) was the great philosopher and scientist Aristotle, who studied under Plato in Athens. Aristotle tutored the teenage soon-to-be king, but the pair's relationship soured in later years. Even so, there's little evidence to back theories that Aristotle may have been involved in Alexander's death.

**W**hen, on 1 October 331 BC, Alexander III of Macedon faced the massed Persian forces of Darius III at Gaugamela, the outcome should have been a foregone conclusion. Comprising 34,000 infantry and 7,000 cavalry, Alexander's Greek army was by no means small – but Darius commanded a mighty cavalry numbering 34,000 and, it is reckoned, more than 200,000 infantry. What's more, the hot and dusty plain – in what is now northern Iraq – was home turf for the Persians. Alexander's men, in contrast, had been on the march for over three years and were over a thousand miles from home.

In fact, the battle was indeed a rout – but not in the expected way. It was the Persians who were crushed, not the numerically inferior Greeks. We will never know the exact figures,

but it's believed that around 50,000 Persians were killed in the battle, compared with just 1,000 or so Greeks. With his vast forces in disarray, Darius fled. He survived – for now – but his reign was effectively finished, as was the once-great Persian Empire, which had stretched from Libya in the west to the Indus Valley in the east. The way now lay open for Alexander to press on eastwards and establish his own empire. At just 25, he was the most powerful man in the world – the Great, indeed.

Brilliant military tactician, savvy politician, courageous and accomplished fighter – in terms of leadership skills, Alexander had the lot. Nor did it hurt to be the son of a king who had already set in motion the most significant shift in power in Greek history. Alexander was born in July 356 BC to King Philip II of Macedon – by all accounts a thoroughly unpleasant man, but



### PHILIP II (382-336 BC)

**Was the empire-builder's father an even greater leader than Alexander himself? The speed with which Philip II transformed Macedon from a region populated by a rabble of disparate tribes into the most militarily powerful state in the Balkans was quite staggering.**

also a mightily effective leader. In the space of just a few years, Philip transformed his state from a small, peripheral kingdom in northern Greece into an unstoppable war machine. In 339 BC, he won a crushing victory over Athens and its allies at Chaeronea, ensuring that Macedon effectively ruled all Greece.

### LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

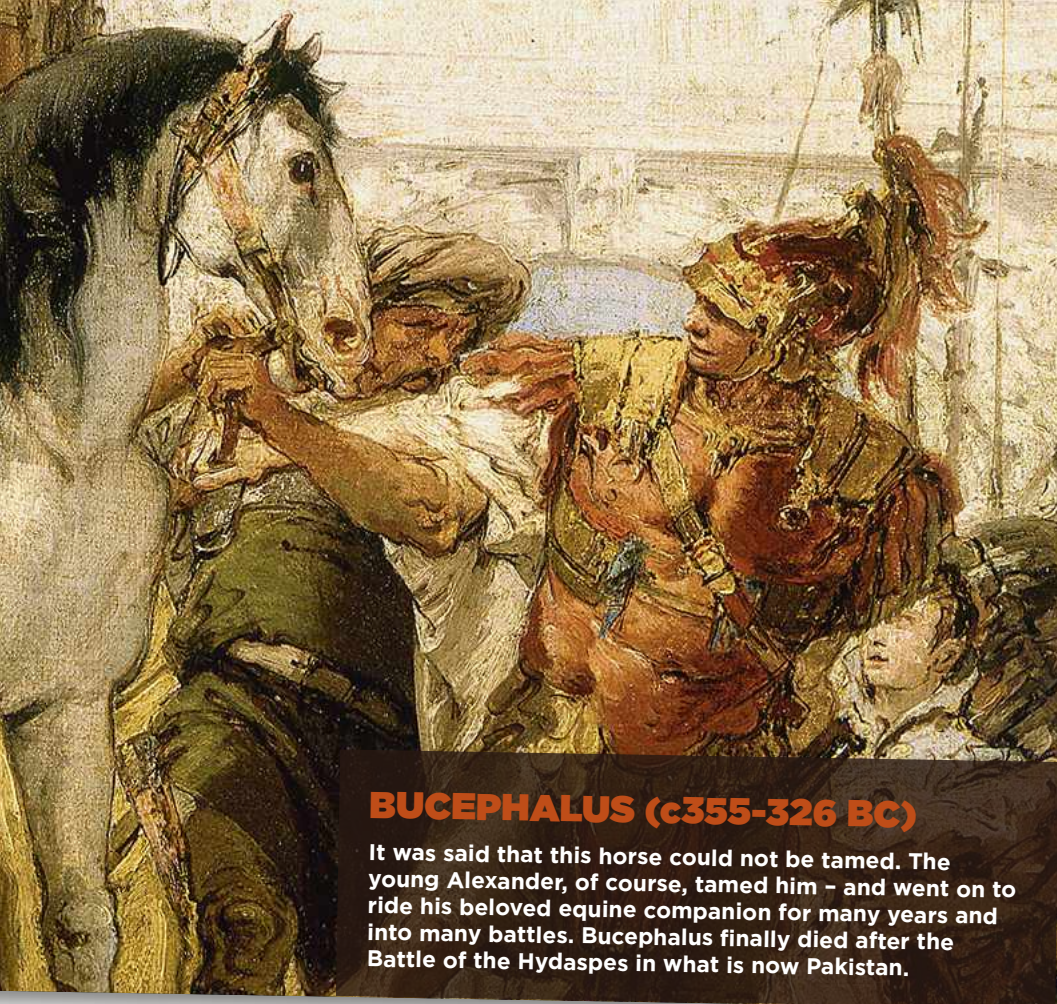
Alexander won his spurs fighting alongside his father, earning plaudits for his bravery at Chaeronea, but would himself soon have the opportunity to rule. Suspiciously soon, in fact – it's been suggested by some historians that Alexander might have been behind the assassination of Philip II in 336 BC, killed by one of his own bodyguards at a family wedding.

By fair means or foul, at the age of 20, Alexander III became ruler of Greece – and the ruthlessness he displayed in cementing that position bore all the hallmarks of his father. He put down unrest in the north of his kingdom with brutal speed and, when Thebes rashly declared independence from Macedonia, his reprisal was savage: the city was burnt to the ground, its people either slaughtered or sold into slavery.

**ALEXANDER THE GREAT, WRITING TO KING DARIUS III OF PERSIA**  
**"I have been appointed leader of the Greeks, and wanting to punish the Persians I have come to Asia, which I took from you."**







### BUCEPHALUS (c355-326 BC)

It was said that this horse could not be tamed. The young Alexander, of course, tamed him – and went on to ride his beloved equine companion for many years and into many battles. Bucephalus finally died after the Battle of the Hydaspes in what is now Pakistan.

## MAN BEHIND THE MYTH CHARACTER OF A CONQUEROR

As with many figures from ancient history, descriptions of Alexander's character are prone to exaggeration and elaboration. We know that he came from Macedon, an area that stretched across the northern part of modern Greece and into neighbouring Balkan lands. The Macedonians were largely regarded by the southern Greek states as uncouth and uneducated, but with Aristotle as his personal tutor, Alexander's own education would have been second to none. He was, by all accounts, nothing special to look at – short, curly-haired and bug-eyed – but made up for it with boundless charisma. His speed of thought was exceptional, especially in the heat of battle. And though he could be ruthless, there are also tales of him sparing, and even rewarding, those enemies who impressed him. As for his love life, we know that he had two children with his first wife, beautiful Roxana, and also married Darius's daughter Stateira. But he may have reserved his fondest affections for his friend Hephaestion – some historians have speculated that they were lovers, though there's no hard evidence.

But Alexander was not merely ruthless. He was also bright enough to know that brute force alone would not keep the diverse collection of states under his power in check. If his study of history had taught him anything – and, with the philosopher and scientist Aristotle as his teacher, he would certainly have been well schooled – it would have been that nothing unites states and their people more than having a reviled common enemy. In 490 BC and 480 BC, the Greeks, who had been fighting among themselves, had joined forces to repel invasions by the Persians under Darius I and Xerxes I.

Now, a century and a half later, Alexander saw an opportunity to turn the tables, and planned a united Greek invasion of Persia.

The expedition that began in spring 334 BC, when Alexander's forces set off from the Greek mainland, would change the course of history. It was not just his military victories against the odds that defy belief, but also his achievements in overcoming daunting geographical obstacles – from vast African deserts to the precipitous mountain trails of the Hindu Kush in the western Himalaya – in a journey that would eventually cover about 20,000 miles over the course of 11 years.

The initial impetus and rallying call for the expedition may have been that long-held grudge against the Persians, but Alexander also had

an ulterior motive: he was determined to reach the end of the Earth and the great ocean that he believed lay beyond. Certainly, no one could accuse him of a lack of ambition.

### GRAND TOUR

Alexander's all-conquering tour began when he crossed into Asia Minor (Anatolia, today part of Turkey) before heading down the eastern Mediterranean coast through Syria into Egypt, looping back towards the Red Sea then continuing eastward through Assyria – where

galore were founded en route, from Alexandria in Egypt (today, the country's second biggest city) to Alexandria Eschate ('Alexandria the Farthest') in Tajikistan and Alexandria Bucephalus, named for the Macedonian's beloved horse, in what's now the Pakistani Punjab.

Not everyone met Alexander's army with stern resistance. Many welcomed their

conqueror with open arms and, often, lavish gifts. All, however, soon became part of an empire of unprecedented scope – covering over two million square miles, it linked East with West for the

**“Alexander was determined to reach the end of the Earth and the great ocean beyond”**

he triumphed at Gaugamela – Mesopotamia, Persia and Bactria, and through the Hindu Kush to the Indus River. If those ancient names seem unfamiliar, look in a modern atlas and tally the list of countries his army traversed to get an idea of the enormity of the achievement: Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, India.

Alexander's forces triumphed in a succession of major battles, not all of them as quick and decisive as Gaugamela. The crucial Mediterranean port city of Tyre (now in Lebanon) was conquered only after a siege that lasted seven months. Cities

first time in history. Enclaves of Greek culture persist in remote areas of the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent even today, legacies of the Macedonian's exploits over two millennia ago. No figure from ancient history continues to loom so large in the literature and culture of so many different peoples – in many he is deified, in many others he is utterly reviled.

But how did he do it? How did Alexander inspire and maintain allegiance and endurance in his troops as he led them on an expedition that, at times, must have seemed not just ambitious but downright deluded?





## HINDU KUSH

Mountains were no obstacles to Alexander's army. The Hindu Kush, a 500-mile-long range in the western Himalaya with peaks soaring over 7,000m, was just one of a number of extreme geographical challenges that they overcame on their expedition.



## BABYLON

The showpiece city of Babylon, complete with its hanging gardens and the magnificent palace of Nebuchadnezzar II, was the pride and joy of the Persian Empire. It became Alexander's de facto capital when that empire became part of his own. It was here, in Nebuchadnezzar's palace, that he died in 323 BC.

Providing the military brains behind unlikely victories such as that at Gaugamela helped – everyone likes to be on the side of a winner, particularly one who is seemingly invincible. Nor was Alexander the sort of general to monitor success from afar. Various sources depict him fighting courageously on the frontline.

Alexander knew all about the effectiveness of what today is dubbed 'shock and awe'. The shock was simple enough – if you crossed him, he was merciless. Alexander's path across Asia was a bloody one, strewn with the bodies not just of enemies but also of former friends whom he came to mistrust, and even the likes of doctors and priests whom he believed had let him down. The awe, meanwhile, came from creating an aura of one directed from above, encouraging the belief that his rise towards global domination was preordained.

To that end, he employed tactics designed to convince all around him of his credentials. The Greeks were a suspicious and religious bunch, so Alexander made a point of consulting

oracles – which would inevitably confirm that his actions enjoyed divine approval; he even undertook a perilous eight-day trek across the desert to the oracle at Siwa in Egypt. And Alexander's propagandist Callisthenes was invariably there to elaborate, enhance and disseminate the news far and wide. Much of the success of the Alexander 'myth' is down to the handiwork of Callisthenes – an exceptional spin doctor – from the famous account of loosening the Gordian Knot (see box, opposite) to the touching tales of Alexander's bond with Bucephalus. Many people were led to believe that Alexander was, indeed, a god.

## END OF THE ROAD

Eventually, though, even the most successful conqueror meets his nemesis. Alexander's came in the form of the River Ganges. By 326 BC, long years on the road and battle losses – not to mention tropical diseases and venomous snakes – had taken their toll on his troops.

Faced with the prospect of crossing a three-mile-wide torrent, only to face more of the same tribulations on the other side, Alexander's army refused. The great adventure was over.

The return journey from the subcontinent was not pretty. The weary Greeks saw their numbers depleted first by flash floods and then, cruelly, a horrendous drought. As for their leader, his once razor-sharp mind became increasingly erratic. He drank more: 24-hour binges became a familiar part of his routine – followed, of course, by a couple of days of hangover. Unsurprisingly, plots against him began to simmer.

In autumn 324 BC, Alexander's closest companion (and, some claim, lover) Hephaestion died – possibly of typhus fever or typhoid exacerbated by heavy alcohol consumption. Devastated, Alexander declined rapidly. He reached Babylon in spring 323 BC, and in June took to his sick bed. His condition worsened and within days he was dead, aged just 32. Was it a fever that killed him, or had his liver simply given up? Perhaps he was poisoned? He was, after all, not short of enemies.

Alexander the Great never made it home to Macedon. But then he never intended to. As the greatest military leader in ancient history, he left a monumental legacy: his vast Asian empire.

PLUTARCH (AD c46-120),  
GREEK HISTORIAN AND BIOGRAPHER  
**"Alexander exposed his person to  
danger in this manner ... inciting  
others to the performance of brave  
and virtuous actions"**







**“There is nothing impossible to him who will try”**

Alexander the Great

## **DARIUS III (c380–330 BC)**

Ruler of the Persian Empire at the time of Alexander's invasion, Darius suffered humiliating defeats at the battles of Issus and Gaugamela, being forced to flee on both occasions. Much to Alexander's frustration, Darius was killed by the Persians themselves following a coup.

## **UNRAVELLING A MYTH A KNOTTY PROBLEM**

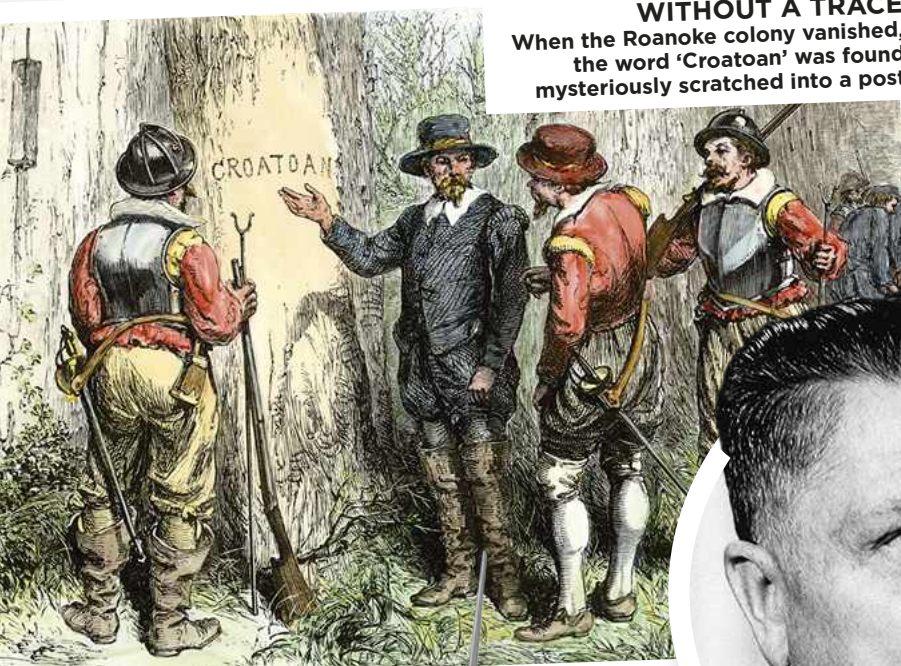
Of all the heroics attributed to Alexander – some truthful, others decidedly dubious – the most familiar is the loosening of the Gordian Knot. This was a leather knot, of the most complex kind, that held together the yoke and shaft of an ancient ox cart in the Temple of Zeus in the city of Gordion (on the site of the modern-day village of Yassihuyuk in Turkey). The cart had been left there by a former king, Gordius. Legend foretold that whoever managed to loosen the knot would rule all of Asia. Various sources claim that Alexander untied the knot but, bizarrely, none makes it clear how he did so – some believe that he may simply have slashed it with his sword. Who knows? As with so many tales about Alexander, the overall image was more important than the details.



# Mysterious disappearances

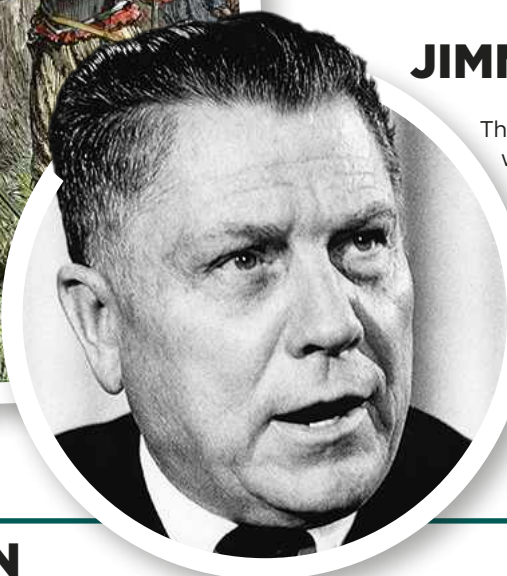
Sometimes it's the things that *aren't* there that make history. **Nige Tassell** brings to light the vanishings that made the news

**WITHOUT A TRACE**  
When the Roanoke colony vanished, the word 'Croatoan' was found mysteriously scratched into a post



## JIMMY HOFFA

The USA's most famous labour activist, Hoffa was the leader of the Teamsters, a union with strong links to organised crime, and served time for jury tampering and attempted bribery. He was last seen one July afternoon in 1975 outside a Detroit restaurant, and was almost certainly murdered. Rumours abound about the location of his body. Some claim it was buried under a Detroit swimming pool or beneath the (now demolished) Giants Stadium in New Jersey.



## THE ROANOKE COLONISTS

The Roanoke Colony was founded in 1585 on an island off the coast of present-day North Carolina at the behest of Elizabeth I, who was keen to establish a settlement in North America. After a rocky beginning, in 1587 Governor John White was dispatched to London to request assistance. When he returned to Roanoke in 1590, he found no sign of the 117 colonists he'd left behind. Were they slain by native tribes or did they simply relocate? We may never know the answer.

## OWAIN GLYNDŴR

In 1400, Glyndŵr launched the Welsh Revolt against the English crown. But in 1412, with the revolt fizzling out in a series of sporadic skirmishes, he vanished. It's believed that he spent his final years in hiding at the Herefordshire home of his daughter Alys. One historian has even suggested that Glyndŵr saw out his days disguised as an old Franciscan monk.







## THE PRINCES IN THE TOWER

In 1483, the 12-year-old King Edward V was lodging in the Tower of London with his younger brother, Richard of Shrewsbury, awaiting his coronation following the death of his father, Edward IV. But the coronation never happened. Instead, the boys' uncle, Richard of York, claimed the throne – and soon rare sightings of the princes stopped altogether. Skeletons unearthed at the tower in 1674, and believed to be the remains of the boys, were interred in Westminster Abbey by Charles II. The funerary urn is inscribed with the claim that the boys were “stifled with pillows ... by the order of their perfidious uncle Richard the Usurper”.



## SHERGAR

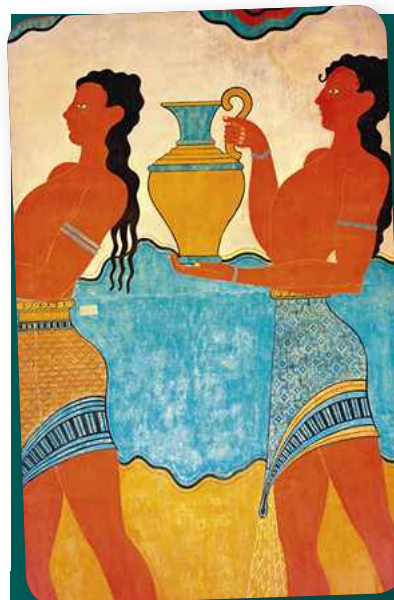
In February 1983, Derby-winning racehorse Shergar was stolen in County Kildare by masked gunmen. The theft, commonly believed to have been carried out by the Provisional IRA, was followed by a demand for a ransom, reputedly around £5m – which wasn't paid. Shergar is believed to have been shot and killed, though his body was never found. The IRA did not admit a role in the abduction.



Mary Celeste was found floating in the Atlantic without her crew in 1872

## CREW OF THE MARY CELESTE

In December 1872, the American ship *Mary Celeste* was found drifting in the Atlantic Ocean. None of the ten people aboard, including the captain's wife and their two-year-old daughter, were found, and the lifeboat was missing. What happened? The ship was carrying more than 1,000 barrels of commercial alcohol, and may have been abandoned when fumes from the barrels led captain and crew to fear an imminent explosion.



## THE MINOAN CIVILISATION

Having flourished on the Greek island of Crete between 2700 and 1450 BC, this civilisation abruptly vanished. A massive volcanic eruption on the nearby island of Thera was long believed to have caused the destruction of Minoan settlements. However, later archaeological finds indicated that an invasion of Crete by the Mycenaeans finished off the civilisation – which may have been weakened by the earlier eruption.

## AGATHA CHRISTIE

In 1926, in a real-life mystery worthy of any of her 66 crime novels, the author disappeared. Her car was found abandoned beside a lake near Guildford, and whispers of suicide or murder abounded. Christie was missing for 11 days – then she was found in a Harrogate hotel, where she'd checked in under an assumed name. She never revealed what really happened, nor why, though recent theories suggest she had entered a fugue state – a kind of trance – when she disappeared.



## SOLOMON NORTHUP

The African-American abolitionist – whose 1853 memoir, *Twelve Years A Slave*, inspired an Academy Award-winning film – disappeared in the late 1850s. It's been claimed that he was again kidnapped and forced into slavery, though in his late forties he'd be rather old to attract buyers.

## AMELIA EARHART

The pioneering American aviator's attempt to circumnavigate the world ended on 2 July 1937 when she and her navigator, Fred Noonan, vanished over the South Pacific. One theory suggests that Earhart managed to land the plane, which had run out of fuel, on an atoll where the pair ultimately perished. In 1940, the skeleton of “a tall, white female of northern European ancestry” was found on the atoll.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Which other famous historic disappearances are absent from our list? Get in touch and tell us about the vanishings we missed...

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)





## BATTLEFIELD IWO JIMA, 1945

### MOUNT SURIBACHI

The American marines took **four days to battle their way to the summit**. By that time 800 of them had been killed.

### LANDING CRAFT

Fierce swells caused by the **steepness of the beach** made landing on Iwo Jima hazardous.


# Iwo Jima: hell in the Pacific

Of 20,000 Japanese soldiers, few survived the battle for **Iwo Jima** in 1945, while the capture of the island cost the US Marines 25,000 casualties – a quarter of their entire losses in World War II. **Julian Humphrys** tells the story...

**J**ust over four miles long and two miles wide, Iwo Jima is a speck on the map. But in early 1945 this tiny volcanic island was the scene of some of the most savage fighting of the World War II.

By late 1944, the war in the Far East had turned decisively against the Japanese. The British had forced them back in Burma while in the Pacific the Americans were steadily closing in on the Japanese home islands, capturing strategically important islands in a series of amphibious operations. Its capture of the Mariana Islands in late 1944 had given the US a base





**LANDING ON IWO JIMA**  
US marines advance up the beaches under heavy Japanese artillery fire. They suffered more than 2,500 casualties, killed or injured, during the landing

**DIFFICULT TERRAIN**

The volcanic ash that covered large parts of the island **made movement difficult** and digging in almost impossible.

**BATTLE CONTEXT**

**Who:**

Japanese c20,000  
under General Tadamichi  
Kuribayashi  
US 70,000 under Admiral  
Chester Nimitz

**When:**

19 February to 26 March 1945

**Where:**

Small volcanic island in  
the Bonin chain, 750 miles  
south-east of Tokyo

**Why:**

The US wants to use the island  
as an airbase from which to  
attack Japan's home islands

**Outcome:**

Island captured by Americans

**Losses:**

Severe on both sides.  
Japanese: up to 19,000 killed.  
Americans: 6,800 killed, with  
19,200 wounded

from which to launch long-range bombing raids on Japan but its fighter planes, which couldn't carry so much fuel, were unable to accompany the bombers on what was a 3,000-mile round trip. But as Iwo Jima was just 650 miles from Japan, it was thought that it offered an ideal base for US fighter planes. A task force was assembled to capture it and a two-month bombing campaign was mounted to soften it up.

General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the Japanese commander on Iwo Jima, wasn't going to give up without a fight. He turned the island into a fortress with a vast network of pillboxes, bunkers and

fortified caves linked by trenches and 11 miles of underground tunnels. Hundreds of hidden artillery, mortar, machine gun and sniper positions were set up.

**THE STORM BEGINS**

The US assault was preceded by a three-day naval bombardment, but this, it later became apparent, was not long enough. In any case, the 20,000 Japanese defenders were so well dug in that it had little effect. On the morning of 19 February, the attack began. Ferried by an armada of nearly 500 landing craft and ships, the first 8,000 US marines splashed through the surf onto beaches on the south side of the island.

The marines had expected the shoreline to be heavily defended so were surprised when they came under little fire as they stormed ashore. But those who thought that this was because the preliminary naval bombardment had silenced their enemy were in for a shock. The Japanese were merely waiting for the beaches to fill up with targets before opening fire. When the beaches were clogged with men and vehicles they opened up with their mortars and artillery on the exposed US forces.

It wasn't just this storm of steel that the Americans had to contend with – the terrain was also against them. The surf was violent and the



# THE BATTLEFIELD

Reeking of sulphur and largely covered by volcanic ash, Iwo Jima was a terrible place in which to fight. The Japanese had prepared a network of bunkers, tunnels, pillboxes and gun emplacements covering every part of the island and were determined to sell their lives dearly



## B-29 SUPERFORTRESS BOMBER

B-29 bombers attacked Iwo Jima for two months before the seaborne invasion. Opinions are divided about Iwo Jima's usefulness as an airbase after its capture. In the event, few fighter missions were flown from the island but over 2,250 B-29 landings were made there.



## 25MM TWIN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN

General Kuribayashi had more than 30 at his disposal. They were used to fire at ground troops as well as aircraft.

## INTERLOCKING FIELDS OF FIRE

## AMMUNITION STORE

## ENTRANCE

Camouflaged by palm trees, boulders and brush.

## ZIGZAG

To minimize the effects of an exploding shell or grenade.

## SOIL LINE

## MIDDLE LEVEL

## SHEET METAL

## AMERICAN M2-2 FLAMETHROWER

A key weapon in neutralising Japanese caves and bunkers. Covered by rifle fire, the operator would move to the flank of a target. From there he would fire across the face of the cave or bunker, advancing quickly under the fire until he could shoot directly into its opening.

## JAPANESE TYPE99 ANTI-TANK MINE

The Japanese used huge numbers of mines on Iwo Jima, and the metallic nature of the soil made mine detectors useless.







## 120MM COASTAL DEFENCE GUN

A dozen large naval guns were sited on the island.

## MOUNTAIN INTERIOR

## GUN POST

Japanese firing positions were often adapted from existing caves and divided into sections.

## RAMP TO UPPER LEVEL



## JAPANESE TYPE98 MORTAR

Used to launch bombs into the air and then drop down onto the enemy. Could be fired from foxholes and trenches or from behind cover without exposing the user.

## ROPE LADDER

## LIVING ACCOMMODATION

Some had electricity supplies and sewage systems.

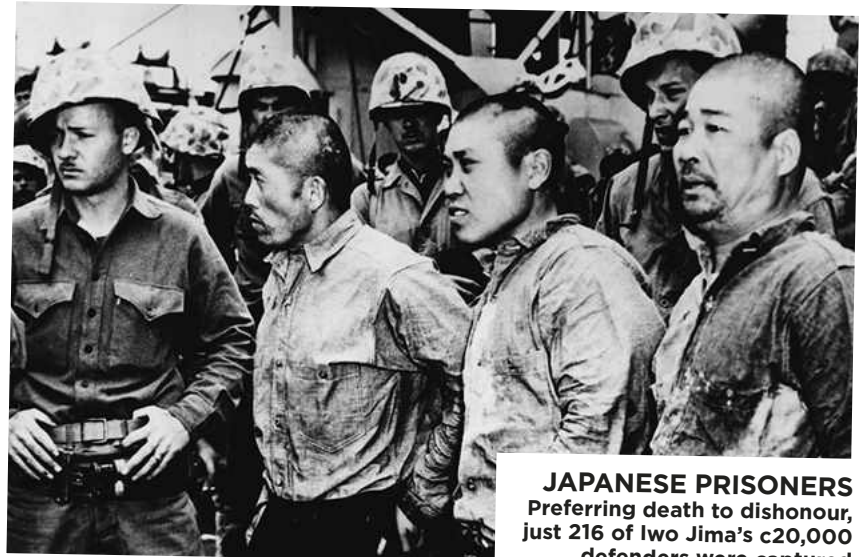
## AIR VENT

Good ventilation was essential in order to prevent the defenders from being overcome by the sulphurous fumes that were common on the volcanic island.

## LOWER LEVEL

## COMMAND POST

General Kuribayashi's headquarters were 20 metres underground.



## JAPANESE PRISONERS

Preferring death to dishonour, just 216 of Iwo Jima's c20,000 defenders were captured

steep beaches were made of soft volcanic ash that made driving or walking across them difficult, and digging in almost impossible. One marine compared it to trying to dig a hole in a barrel of wheat. Almost 2,500 marines were killed and wounded on the beaches but, even so, by the end of the day 30,000 Americans were ashore.

## NO BANZAI

In previous battles, a frequent Japanese response to an enemy advance had been to launch a massed and often suicidal 'banzai' counterattack (literally meaning ten thousand years, 'banzai' was the Japanese battle cry).

The Americans were expecting something similar but Kuribayashi forbade it on Iwo Jima – there were to be no easy targets. Instead, the Japanese stayed in caves and bunkers inland and waited for US forces to come to them.

On 20 February, the marines attacked Mount Suribachi, a dormant volcano that dominated the southern end of the island. Many of the Japanese gun positions around the foot of Suribachi had been destroyed by naval gunfire but on the mountain itself it was a different story. At each pillbox and bunker, the Japanese fought with extraordinary determination.

Eventually, after four days of non-stop combat, a small group of US marines reached the summit where they raised the Stars and Stripes on a metal pole (see photo

on following page). In capturing Suribachi, 800 marines had died, and it was not even the main defensive position on the island. Almost all of the 1,200 Japanese defenders were dead. Their code of war scorned surrender and most sold their lives dearly. Some were burned alive by flame throwers or torn apart by explosives thrown into their bunkers. Many too badly wounded to fight on kept a grenade at hand, ready to detonate it when US forces came near.

A small group of defenders managed to battle their way out and somehow made it to the main Japanese headquarters further north. Even though they had been ordered to break out by their dying commander in order to report the fall of

Suribachi, their failure to fight to the last was greeted there with fury.

Their officer, a navy lieutenant, was called a coward and was nearly beheaded. One of the senior Japanese commanders, Captain Samaji Inouye, drew his samurai sword, and the lieutenant knelt with his head bowed awaiting his death. But as Inouye raised the weapon, his aides wrestled it from his hands.

It would take the US forces more than a month to clear the island. Painfully inching their way across a largely barren landscape of rocks and craters, they often found themselves under fire from positions they thought they had cleared as the Japanese used

# 6,800

tons of bombs were dropped on Iwo Jima before the US invasion was launched





## BATTLEFIELD IWO JIMA, 1945

### IMMORTALISED

These servicemen (marines plus one navy corpsman) inspired The Marine Corps War Memorial near the US Arlington National Cemetery, from which a detail is shown above left.

### THE WINNING FLAG

The dynamic quality and obvious symbolism of Rosenthal's shot of US forces raising the flag on Suribachi made it famous



## RAISING THE FLAG

The battle for Iwo Jima gave rise to one of the most famous war photographs ever taken. On 23 February, a patrol of marines reached the summit of Mount Suribachi where they set up a small United States flag on a metal pole. The event was photographed by Staff Sergeant Louis R Lowery, a photographer with *Leatherneck*, the magazine of the US marines. However, because the flag was too small to be easily seen the decision was taken to replace it with a larger one. A second patrol of marines climbed to the summit and as five of them, plus one navy corpsman, set up the second flag they were photographed by Joe Rosenthal of the Associated Press. His picture was an instant success and it won the 1945 Pulitzer Prize for Photography. It's sometimes claimed that the photo was staged but this isn't the case. Rosenthal did later admit to having staged a photograph but that was a group photo of marines posing around the flag once it had been set up.

their tunnel network to reoccupy them after the US forces had passed by.

Some of the bitterest fighting took place near the centre of the island, around a high point called Hill 382; a heavily-fortified hill dubbed the Turkey Knob; and a shallow depression called the Amphitheater. For most Americans, however, the area around these related features was simply known as the Meat Grinder.

Iwo Jima rapidly became a stinking hellhole with decomposing bodies and parts of bodies lying unburied.

Soon the whole island became infested with vast swarms of flies, adding the threat of disease to the hazards faced by the combatants. Eventually the Americans were forced to send over planes to spray the place with the insecticide DDT in a bid to keep the problem under control.

As US forces slowly advanced, Captain Inouye found himself cut off with nearly a thousand of his men near Tachiwa Point on the eastern side of the island and on 8 March, ignoring Kuribayashi's

orders against such a thing, he drew his sword and led them in a last desperate 'banzai' charge against the Americans. In the confused fighting that followed the US suffered nearly 350 casualties but the following day nearly 800 Japanese dead were counted. Inouye was one of them.

By 11 March, the remaining Japanese were trapped in an area around Kitano

Point at the far north of the island and on 16 March, General Harry Schmidt announced that the island was secure.

Even then a few hundred men still held out in a fortified ravine that US marines dubbed the Gorge.

In the early hours of 26 March, in a final act of defiance, the Japanese emerged from their tunnels to attack US positions. It is believed that this is when General Kuribayashi met his death, although his body was never identified because he had removed his insignia and fought as a common soldier.

Only 216 Japanese soldiers had been captured during the fighting

# 27

Medals of Honor were awarded for action on Iwo Jima - more than for any other battle in World War II



**THE LOSING FLAG**  
US marines with Japan's national flag and the rising sun flag of its army

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

The Americans had suffered nearly 25,000 casualties in capturing the tiny island. It had been the only major battle in the Pacific War in which US casualties were higher than the total of Japanese dead. Five days

after the fighting stopped on Iwo Jima the US launched a massive amphibious assault on the much larger Japanese island of Okinawa. In the 12-week battle, more than 50,000 US soldiers were killed or wounded, more than 100,000 Japanese

soldiers died, and a similar number of civilians lost their lives. Iwo Jima and Okinawa had shown the Americans just how far the Japanese would go to defend their country. The desire to bring the war to a swift conclusion without having to mount a costly invasion of mainland Japan was one of the factors in the American decision to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August.

## “A pair of Japanese gunners finally gave themselves up in 1949”

(many of them unconscious or too badly wounded to kill themselves) though more remained at large for some time, emerging from caves at night to forage for food. The last two, a pair of Japanese navy machine gunners, finally gave

themselves up in January 1949, three and a half years after the end of the war. ☉

### GET HOOKED!

Find out more about the battle and those involved

### FILM

Iwo Jima features in two acclaimed 2006 films directed by Clint Eastwood. *Flags of Our Fathers* tells the story of the flag raisers of Suribachi. *Letters from Iwo Jima* looks at the battle from a Japanese perspective. The 1949 *Sands of Iwo Jima* with John Wayne is also well worth watching.



**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Thousands died at Iwo Jima. Does any victory justify the loss of so much life?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)



**SPECIAL  
EDITION**

# YEARBOOK 2015

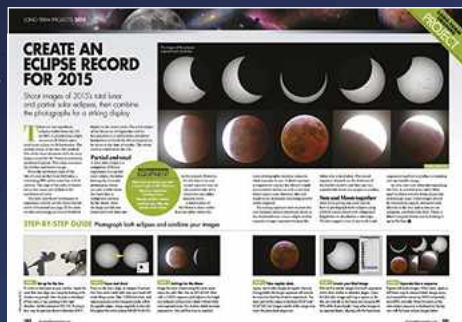
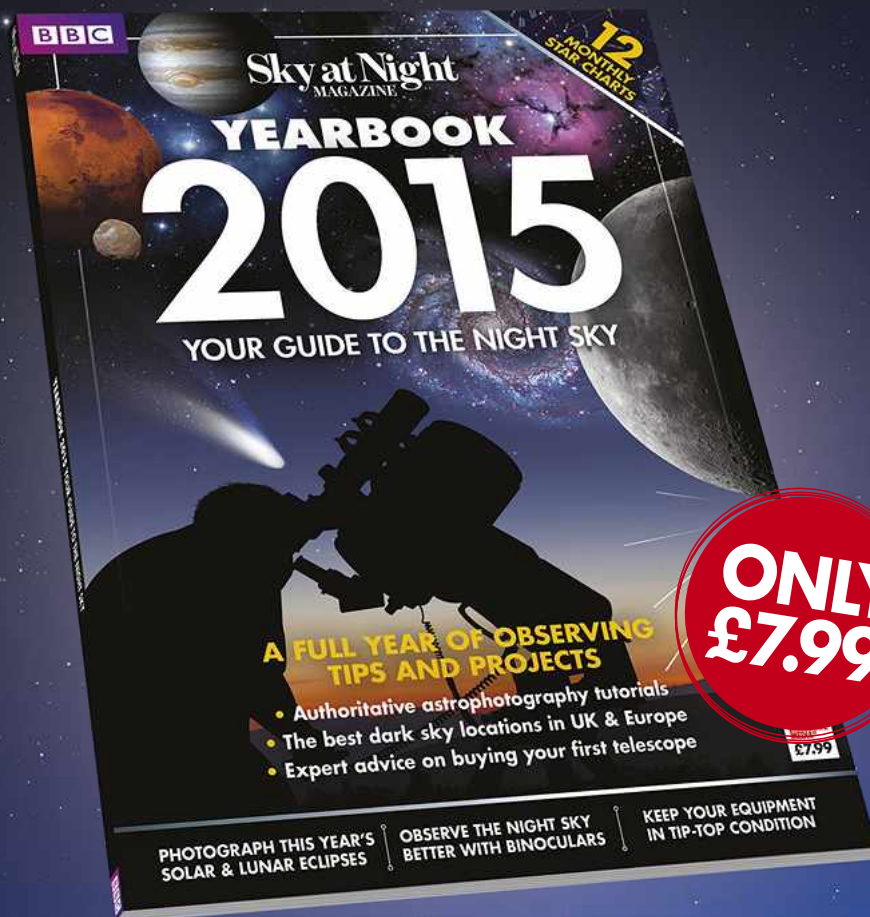
## YOUR GUIDE TO THE NIGHT SKY

FROM THE MAKERS OF  
**BBC** Sky at Night  
MAGAZINE

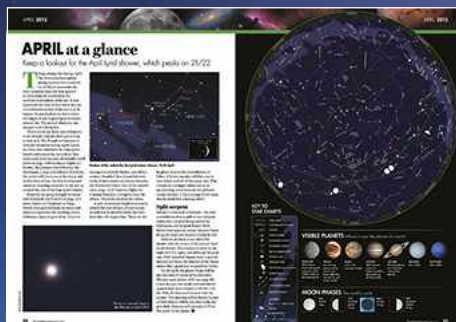
Explore the night sky over the next 12 months with *BBC Sky at Night Magazine's Yearbook 2015 – Your Guide to the Night Sky*. This indispensable astronomy bible contains a full year of stargazing tips, projects and how-to guides, plus ideas on where to find dark skies, amazing images and dates for all the astronomical events you can't afford to miss. Each month of the year has its own detailed star chart to point you toward the best views.

*Chris*

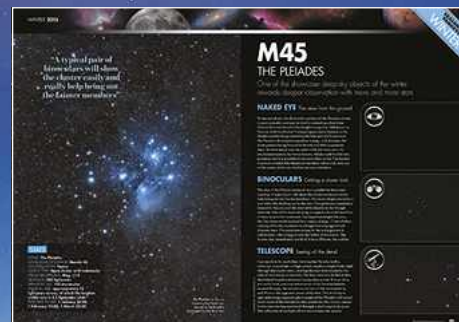
Chris Bramley  
Editor, *BBC Sky at Night Magazine*



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# The Madness of King George

**Tom Symmons** examines the curious case of the monarch's mental illness, and provides a diagnosis of the hit film

**D**uring 1788, George III became seriously ill. Stricken at first with stomach pains and nausea, the King began to suffer bouts of mental confusion, and by the end of the year was incapacitated. In an attempt to cure his malady, a brutal regime of remedies and treatment was prescribed – but his condition, diagnosed as madness, triggered a Regency crisis that destabilised the country's economy and spread anxiety among his subjects.

This dramatic episode is the subject of the acclaimed 1994 film, *The Madness of King George*, based on Alan Bennett's stage play. It continued an enduring tradition of monarchy films that have explored the tensions between the private lives and public duties of British kings and queens.

At the time of his breakdown, the King was a popular monarch who was widely admired for his piety and strong family values. In 1761, the year after his succession to the throne, he married Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, with whom he would have 15 children. Unusually for a British king, he kept no mistresses but was a man of simple, innocent pleasures. He ate very little meat and insisted on the health benefits of fresh air. The King's love of agriculture and the countryside earned him the affectionate nickname 'Farmer George' among his subjects.

The same things couldn't be said for his eldest son and heir apparent, the Prince of Wales, who was unpopular with the public. He led an extravagant lifestyle, and was frivolous with money and women. The Prince was heavily in debt and had risked disinheritance by secretly marrying the widowed Maria Fitzherbert – she was Catholic, which, by law, excluded

him from succeeding to the throne. He was considered dissolute and lazy by his father, and their relationship was stormy and strained.

## THE ROYAL WEE

In autumn 1788, the mystery illness that had begun to afflict the King earlier that year worsened. He suffered severe stomach pain and cramps, his urine was discoloured and he became increasingly agitated and confused. He would rave for hours on end and, uncharacteristically, use obscene language. On one occasion in early November, the King, reportedly foaming at the mouth and with bloodshot eyes, physically attacked the Prince of Wales, attempting to smash his head against a wall.

Stories of his illness spread, causing worry among his subjects. One rumour,



**"I have known stranger things. I once saw a sheep with five legs."**

MAIN: King George dashes around the castle in his nightgown during his illness  
LEFT: George was only 22 when he became King of Great Britain and Ireland in 1760

since proven false, claimed that the monarch had mistaken a tree for the King of Prussia. The uncertainty surrounding the future of the King's government – one that had hitherto presided over a healthy and stable economy – caused the stock market to fall sharply.

Meanwhile, a series of harsh and primitive 'remedies' were employed in attempts to cure the King. Poultices of Spanish fly (a poisonous chemical produced by blister beetles) and mustard were placed all over his body; the resulting painful blistering would, it was believed, purge him of 'evil humours'. Laudanum and quinine were among the medicines prescribed. All proved useless.

With the King incapacitated, the Prince took over the running of the royal household and appointed Dr Warren, a general practitioner, to examine his father. Unable to explain the King's illness, the doctor pronounced him insane and delivered the grim prognosis that his condition was incurable.

## THE FACTS

**Release date:** 1994

**Director:**

Nicholas Hytner

**Cast:**

Nigel Hawthorne,

Helen Mirren, Rupert

Everett, Ian Holm,

Amanda Donohoe,

Rupert Graves



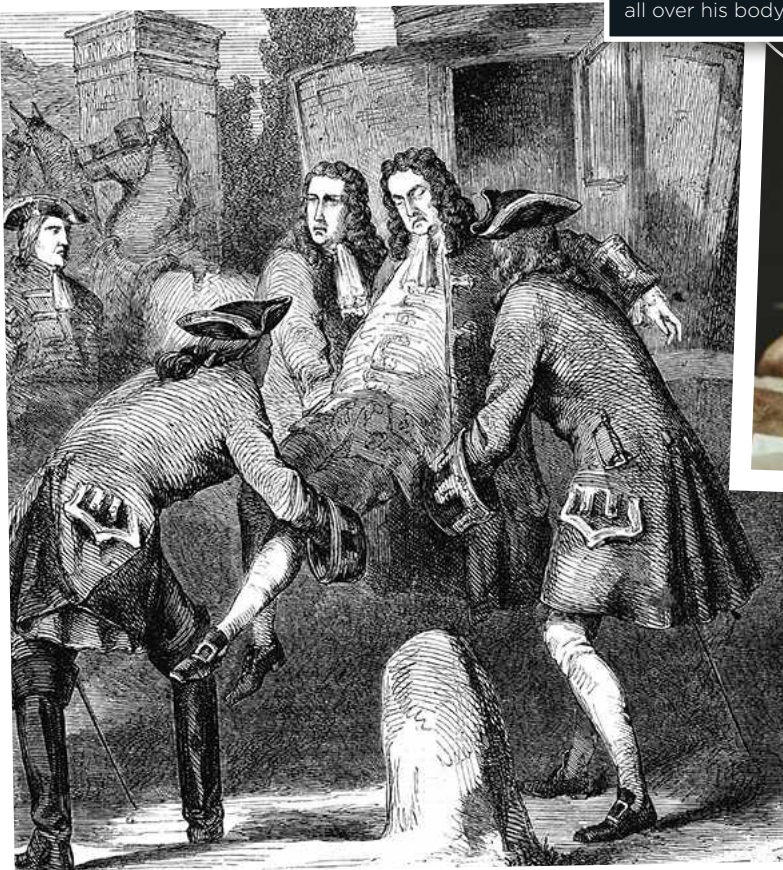
### RUNNING IN THE FAMILY

The King suffered several bouts of his illness – believed by some to have been the **genetic condition porphyria** – before it became permanent in 1810.

“This is a witty, poignant and accurate account of the Regency crisis.”

### A ROYAL PAIN

Doctors tried to burn away the King's illness by placing **red-hot bowls** and **poultices of mustard** all over his body.



“I’ve had no peace of mind since we lost America. Forests, old as the world itself. A paradise, lost.”

ABOVE: The primitive ‘treatments’ in the film are accurate depictions of some of the ‘remedies’ employed by Dr Willis  
LEFT: The King’s illness included many different symptoms, including coloured urine and ‘apoplectic fits’



## THE REEL STORY THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III

### TOUGH LOVE

The King was **gagged and restrained** in an iron chair for hours at a time during his treatment.

### QUACK SHOT

George III's illness resolved itself and was **not cured by Dr Willis's brutal treatment**, as the film implies.

**"I tell, I am not *told*. I am the *verb*, sir, not the *object*."**

ABOVE: The King is force-fed while strapped in a chair. The film shows Dr Francis Willis treating George III with no more deference than any of his other patients  
RIGHT: Willis was assisted in treating the King by his son, John, who also attended George when he became ill again in 1801

Unconvinced, Queen Charlotte insisted that specialist physician Dr Willis treat the King. An ex-minister, Willis ran his own private asylum and had experience treating the insane. Dismissing Warren's prognosis, Willis claimed that the King could be cured – on condition that the monarch agreed to the doctor's strict treatment system and, dispensing with royal deference, submit to his absolute authority.

This caused the King further loss of dignity and a great deal more suffering. He was denied permission to see his wife and daughters, and moved from Windsor to the relative privacy of Kew, where he was treated by Willis and his helpers. There, his wild outbursts and bizarre behaviour were curbed through restraint, often for hours, with a gag, straitjacket and purpose-made iron chair. Strong discipline, the doctor asserted, would restore the King's sanity.

### PARLIAMENTARY CRISIS

While Dr Willis treated the King, during the winter of 1788-89, an epic parliamentary struggle ensued. With the monarch seriously ill and unable to carry out his royal duties, parliament's powers were severely limited and the future of the government remained in the balance.

The Regency Crisis was a struggle for power between the government and the opposition. Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger was supported by the King. His arch adversary, Charles James Fox, a leader of the opposition Whigs, was the friend and ally of the Prince of Wales, who was to be installed as regent. Given the severity of the King's condition, both Pitt and Fox agreed that a regency was needed but disagreed over the extent of the Regent's authority. If full powers were granted, Pitt feared his days in government would be numbered.

Insisting that the King was incurable, Fox pushed for full powers – royal prerogative – for the Prince, which would surely bring the Whigs into government after five years in opposition. Pitt, anxious to protect his position and in the hope the monarch would recover, employed stalling tactics. Eventually conceding that the Prince was the only reasonable candidate for Regent, the Prime Minister proposed limited royal powers that would give parliament

control over the Regent and prevent him from dismissing the government.

Meanwhile, the King still ailed. Rival diagnoses were hurled between Doctors Willis and Warren, who were summoned to speak before a parliamentary committee, dragging the debate out even longer. Infighting broke out among the Whig opposition over the advocacy of royal prerogative, a position they had been attacking for years.

Then, as disunity within his party's ranks began to weaken Fox's position, the King began to show some signs of recovery. For periods, he was able to speak clearly and rationally, though some incidents – such as when he chased the second keeper of the robes, Fanny

### RASCAL REGENT

The Prince of Wales (Rupert Everett) schemed to become regent





### MIND OVER MATTER

Some historians now believe that the King's ailment was actually a **physiological rather than psychiatric** disorder.

**“No life is without its regrets, yet none is without its consolations.”**

MAIN: King George III and Queen Charlotte (Helen Mirren) produced a big family – they had 15 children  
BELOW: Though King George met his bride, Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, for the first time on their wedding day, theirs was a happy marriage



Burney – showed that his condition remained unstable.

In February 1789, the Regency Bill was passed in the Commons, depriving the Prince of full powers, and was ready to go to the Lords. If it had been thrown out, Pitt's political future would again have been in jeopardy. But it never got there because by the end of the month, George III had made a full recovery.

The film is a witty, stylish, poignant and largely accurate account of the Regency crisis. In the feel-good tradition of mainstream filmmaking it ends on a triumphant note – George III's return to the throne – neglecting to complete the story for the viewer. The reality is that, just a few years later, the condition from which the King suffered in 1788 finally became permanent.

The long reign of George III came to an end in 1810 when he suffered a total relapse. The Prince was appointed Regent, and the King lived out the remaining ten years of his life at Windsor

Castle in a pitiable state – confused, neglected and unkempt. In January 1820, he slipped into a coma from which he would not recover.

Some studies of the King's symptoms have suggested that he suffered from porphyria, a condition that causes skin rashes, stomach pain and mental disorientation. Coloured urine, as produced by the King, is a key symptom of this rare metabolic disorder. If porphyria was the cause of George's madness, it was probably triggered by the accumulation of arsenic in his body. There were extremely toxic levels of the chemical element in the monarch's wig and skin cream, as well as significant traces in medicine prescribed to remedy his condition – but which, instead, prolonged it. ☉



**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

What do films such as *The Madness of King George* tell us about our monarchy and government?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

## Ones to watch: British monarchs

### *Mrs Brown*

(John Madden, 1997)  
Mourning the loss of her husband, Queen Victoria (Judi Dench) develops a close relationship with her servant (Billy Connolly).

### *Elizabeth*

(Shekhar Kapur, 1998)  
Cate Blanchett is imperious as Elizabeth I, ruthlessly suppressing threats to her rule as the 'Virgin Queen'.

### *The King's Speech*

(Tom Hooper, 2010)  
Unorthodox therapist



**Judi Dench is by turns haughty and vulnerable as Victoria in *Mrs Brown***

Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush) helps King George VI (Colin Firth) overcome his speech impediment.





Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

# HERE & NOW

HOW TO VISIT... RAILWAY STATIONS 90 • BOOKS 94

## ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

### EXHIBITION

## Memories of a nation

Attempting to illustrate six centuries of the history of Germany must have been a daunting prospect for the British Museum. Germany has been torn and its borders redrawn by **religious, political and social turmoil**, most recently by the building of the Berlin Wall (a fragment of which stands at the exhibition's entrance).

Germany: Memories of a Nation boldly tries to tell this complicated story with 200 objects **spanning 600 years**, including technology from the time of Gutenberg's printing press and more modern designs such as the VW Beetle. **Runs until 25 January at the British Museum, London. Tickets are available at [www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)**



The exhibition combines achievements, from cars to cradles, and political history, as seen by this protest placard



### TV

## The Musketeers

Begins January on BBC One

Prepare for buckles to be well and truly swashed with the second series of the **ripping BBC hit The Musketeers**. Based on Alexandre Dumas' iconic tales, Athos, Porthos, Aramis and D'Artagnan return to 17th century Paris as they fight to protect the King – while clashing with Cardinal Richelieu (Peter Capaldi).

**Leave historical accuracy at the door**, and enjoy the thrilling ride.



### ANNIVERSARY

## Birth of Parliament

A series of events are planned to mark 800 years since the Magna Carta and 750 years since **Simon de Montfort's milestone parliaments** in 1265. **[www.parliament.uk/2015](http://www.parliament.uk/2015)**

### TWITTER

## English Heritage

@EnglishHeritage

One of the best ways to stay informed about historical sites in England – or for **ideas of where to go** – is the English Heritage's frequently updated account.







The 17th-century selfie: Rembrandt's self portrait

## EXHIBITION

### The last years of Rembrandt

Here's a last chance to see **Rembrandt: the Late Works** at the National Gallery. The Dutch master's later years were marred by **tragedy and controversy** – but the period also produced some of his most impressive works. **Ends 18 January. Buy tickets at [www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk)**



The photos, including these Cardiff children, give poignant glimpses into the past

## EXHIBITION

### The evolution of photography

Trace the monumental changes in photography in this revealing exhibition, from the scientific process to the craft's increasing status as an **art form**. The arresting collection on display comprises photographs taken by the Dillwyn Llewelyn family, whose **revolutionary experiments** with cameras led to stunning images of the Welsh landscape. **Opens at the National Museum Cardiff on 24 January [www.museumwales.ac.uk](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk)**



*The Theory of Everything* is based on Jane Wilde Hawking's memoir, *Travelling to Infinity: My Life with Stephen*

## FILM

### Race against time

#### The Theory of Everything

In cinemas 1 January

This month sees the release of a biopic of one of the brilliant minds of the 20th century, **Stephen Hawking**.

While at Cambridge, promising astrophysicist Hawking falls completely in love with **fellow student Jane Wilde**. Their passionate relationship, however, is tested to its limits when 21-year-old Hawking is

diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, which slowly paralyses his body. Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones give **powerful and moving** turns in Oscar-winning director James Marsh's *The Theory of Everything*.

## TALK

### War horse

Paul Kenyon of the Lathom Park Trust will talk on the important role of **horses and mules in World War I**, especially those from Lathom Park, where one-in-four war horses were trained. **22 January, 3pm at the Museum of Liverpool, no need to book [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)**

## APP



### Hadrian's Wall Tour

£1.99/Pocket Tours Limited

Everything you possibly need when visiting Hadrian's Wall, plus **beautiful scenes** of the surrounding countryside.

## EXHIBITION

### Cotton to Gold

An exciting exhibition showcasing treasures from around the world, collected by **Lancashire magnates** who grew wealthy during the Industrial Revolution.

**Runs at Two Temple Place, London, from 31 January [www.twotempleplace.org](http://www.twotempleplace.org)**

**A rare Incan huaco (pottery) from Peru – loaned by Towneley Hall in Burnley for the exhibition**



## ▶ ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

▶ **Playing the Past** – a talk on the history of games and game playing – at the National Museum of Scotland, 26 January, 6.30pm  
▶ To mark 50 years since Winston Churchill's funeral, the National Railway Museum, York, will display the baggage van used to carry his coffin





**THE RAILWAY STATION**  
In Frith's huge iconic 1862 painting, the train shed is a prominent feature, elevated to high art



**CARRIAGE CANOPY**  
The grander Victorian stations had a carriage canopy jutting out over the main entrance where private carriages could draw up to drop off passengers out of the rain.

## HOW TO VISIT...

# Victorian railway stations

Rupert Matthews explores how the coming of the railway in the 1800s created the need for a new form of architecture

**R**ailways transformed the landscape physically and culturally, putting Britain at the forefront of railway technology and architecture in the 19th century. Until the railways, most people rarely travelled further than the next market town, perhaps 10 miles away. Stations were gateways to journeys of over a hundred miles, completed in a few hours in futuristic machines. For a Victorian, they were places of romance, excitement and modernity - but also scary, grimy, dirty and noisy. Railway companies sought to reassure them, and investors, with traditional designs such as mock Tudor or Gothic.

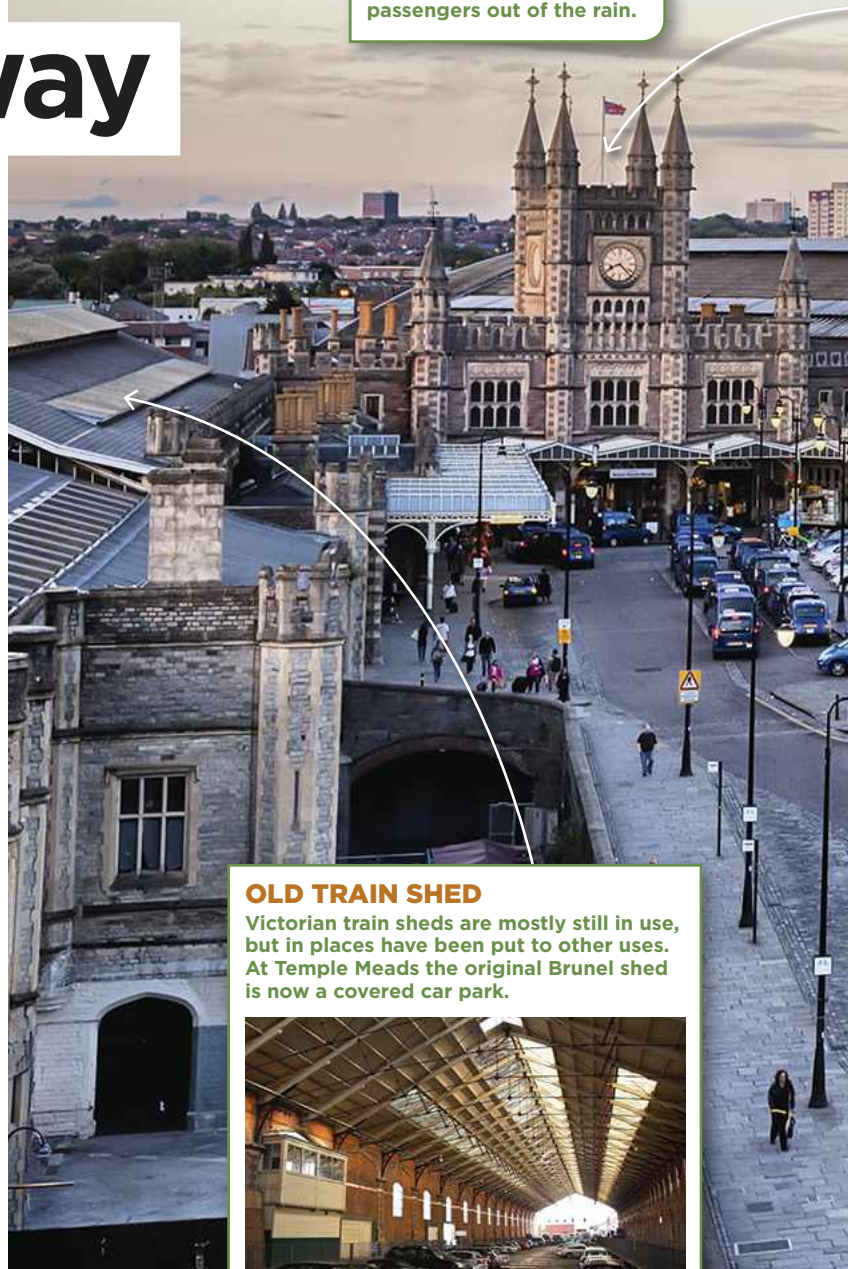
Steam engines belched smoke and steam, so stations had to allow the air to circulate and take the smell and dirt away from passengers. Smaller stations would be open to the skies while the soaring iron and steel roofs of the great terminals had to be built on a grand scale. Their architects

looked to existing large buildings for inspiration - castles, cathedrals and grand country houses. The train shed at St Pancras station became the largest enclosed space in the world when built in 1868.

For the first time, large numbers of people had to be shepherded to the correct place to board the correct train at the correct time. Stations had to have clocks, platforms identified by numbers and signs indicating which train would be leaving next. A ticket to a destination that could be purchased at the time of travel was another innovation, as were ticket offices themselves.

Freight was important, so most stations had extensive areas for livestock, parcels and foodstuffs. These added their noises and smells to the assault on the senses that was the Victorian station.

**TURN OVER...**  
for six of the best Victorian stations to visit



**OLD TRAIN SHED**  
Victorian train sheds are mostly still in use, but in places have been put to other uses. At Temple Meads the original Brunel shed is now a covered car park.





### CAST IRON PILLARS

The supports of Victorian station roofs are often made of cast iron, a material that is very strong under compression, could be prefabricated off-site and was also comparatively cheap.



### CLOCK

The iconic clock tower introduced standardised 'railway time', replacing the older system by which each town had its own time based on when the Sun was at its zenith at local noon.

## TEMPLE MEADS Bristol

Opened in 1840 as the western terminus of the Great Western Railway, Temple Meads was arguably the world's first proper railway station. From the start there was provision for buses and taxis, and a hotel beside the station, while passengers could even buy tickets to travel on the next train - then ground-breaking stuff. That original station and train shed (seen far left) were designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The train shed, now over part of the car park, has a mock hammer beam roof, built of wood, copying Parliament's vast 11th-century Westminster Hall in London. The 1840s station was replaced by the current building in the 1870s, designed by Matthew Digby Wyatt, with Gothic elements, mock-Tudor spires and mullioned windows. After World War I, the station was doubled in size.



### MEMORIALS

Many stations have memorials to employees killed in war. The oldest date to the Boer War but few survive; there is an impressive one at Derby Station. Framed copies of GWR's Roll of Honour for 1914-1918 were displayed at many of their stations, and some still remain in situ. Didcot Railway Centre's example was rededicated in 2014.

### NETWORK MONOGRAMS

Bristol Temple Meads features the original coat of arms of the GWR, the combined shields of London and Bristol, and the later and more widely used GWR roundel logo. No matter what station you're in, it's worth looking out for the old network monograms hidden in the architecture, or on the benches.

### ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

Redeveloped over the years, the Temple Meads of today has elements of several different styles. Above is the HQ of Bristol & Exeter Railway, one of three companies that ran through Bristol, built in 1854 in the Jacobean style.

Below is the ticket office (under the clock tower in the main picture) of the 1870s station, built in the fashionable Gothic Revival style that had been chosen for the rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament in the 1840s because it was felt to embody conservative values.





## SIX OF THE BEST VICTORIAN RAILWAY STATIONS



**GLASGOW CENTRAL**  
An impressive Victorian design, still in use

### GLASGOW CENTRAL Glasgow

In 1901, three adjacent stations belonging to different companies were rebuilt to create today's Glasgow Central. The design involved a spectacular, glass-walled bridge over Argyle Street

and a unique oval ticket office and information building under the expansive glass and iron roof. The adjacent Grand Central Hotel was refurbished recently. [www.facebook.com/glasgowcentral](http://www.facebook.com/glasgowcentral)

### WINDSOR & ETON RIVERSIDE Berkshire

Built in 1849, this ostentatious station not far from Windsor castle was completed to provide every luxury for Queen Victoria. The building has stone mullions, with a royal waiting room, while very tall arched gates allowed mounted Life Guards to enter and leave without dismounting. [www.thamesweb.co.uk/windsor/windsorhistory/railways/railway](http://www.thamesweb.co.uk/windsor/windsorhistory/railways/railway)



### CARLISLE Cumbria

The beautiful mock-Tudor station was opened in 1847, designed by noted architect William Tite. It was expanded significantly in 1875, but in the 1960s the

Beeching Axe saw several lines closed and today the huge eight-platform station is underused. [www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations\\_destinations/car.aspx](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations_destinations/car.aspx)

### BANGOR Gwynedd

At Bangor, the 1848 station building of the Chester and Holyhead Railway still stands, with original iron company plaques and fixtures. The track

layout has changed and now includes a line for nuclear fuel flasks from Wylfa Nuclear Power Station. [www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/stations/BNG/](http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/stations/BNG/)

### WHITEHEAD Antrim

Whitehead, in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, is a town of two railway stations. Most of the Victorian architectural features of its 1877 station remain - including the wooden canopy and waiting room. Whitehead's other station is the base for the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, which runs special excursions over the Irish network using nine steam and six diesel engines, plus vintage rolling stock. [www.steamtrainsireland.com](http://www.steamtrainsireland.com)



### HUDDERSFIELD West Yorkshire

The poet John Betjeman called Huddersfield Station "the most splendid in England". The long frontage is dominated by an eight-column Corinthian portico of the type more usually seen

on stately homes. The frontage includes two pubs as well as a waiting room, ticket office and a newsagents. [www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations\\_destinations/HUD.aspx](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations_destinations/HUD.aspx)

**COUNTRY HOUSE STYLE**  
Huddersfield's grand railway station





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# BOOKS

## BOOK OF THE MONTH



### George VI: the Dutiful King

By Philip Ziegler

Allen Lane, £10.99, 112 pages, hardback

This concise, insightful biography of George VI offers both a hugely accessible overview of the King's life and a perceptive look at his character. George wasn't born to be king – and often loathed his duties – but he performed his role with admirable resolve at a time, during World War II, when Britain sorely needed role models. It's

beautifully presented and illustrated, featuring a section of enlightening photographs. Other books in the new Penguin Monarchs series introduce Henry VIII and Charles I, with more titles due out next year – ideal starting points for learning about historical kings and queens.



**RELUCTANT MONARCH**  
King George VI was a dignified figurehead for the nation in World War II



### MEET THE AUTHOR

**Philip Ziegler** explains why, despite not being raised as a future king, George VI became one of our most influential – and admirable – monarchs

## “Not being born heir was a positive advantage”

### Why do you think that this new series of books on kings and queens is important?

Monarchs matter! In the past, they shaped the history of the country over which they ruled. Even today, they exert great influence and, by lending their name to a period, identify and define it. ‘Victorian England’,

for instance, is a concept that encapsulates both the Queen and the country over which she ruled.

### George wasn't born to be king. How did that affect his reign?

Many of our most estimable monarchs – including Victoria and George V – were not born to be queen or king. In many

ways, not being born heir to the throne was a positive advantage for George VI. It gave him a chance to mature and experience something at least approaching the day-to-day lives of his subjects, free from the pressures that beset the eldest son. Nobody could claim that George VI enjoyed an ‘ordinary’ life, but compared with that of his elder brother it was normality itself.

audible and visible, the King's role was less significant than it would otherwise have been. Yet George VI still commanded tremendous loyalty, and his addresses to the nation won him terrific affection and admiration – partly because he was by nature so inarticulate. He did not so much ‘shape’ the national mood as personify it.

### What legacy did his reign leave our current Queen?

George VI believed that, because of the crisis surrounding the abdication of Edward VIII, he had inherited a tottering throne. In fact, the totter was not nearly as pronounced as he imagined – but there is no doubt that Edward's behaviour had done serious damage to the monarchy. However, such was the conscientiousness, the dignity, the radiant decency of George – not to mention that of his wife, Queen Elizabeth – that, in an age in which hereditary monarchies were perishing the world over, he left his daughter a throne as secure as it had ever been.

### How far did George shape the national mood during World War II?

Clearly, George VI was not going to lead his armies into battle or play a major part in the running of the war. His role could only be that of figurehead – a rallying point for the nation's loyalties. Because his prime minister, Winston Churchill, was so

### THE KING'S SPEECH

George VI overcame his stammer to address the nation during World War II





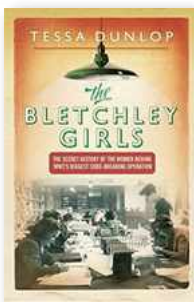
## THE BEST OF THE REST



### Young Lawrence: A Portrait of the Legend as a Young Man

By Anthony Sattin  
John Murray, £25,  
336 pages, hardback

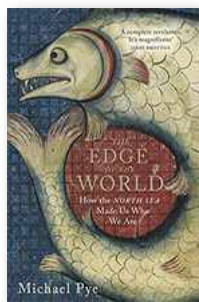
Who was TE Lawrence before he became Lawrence of Arabia, the famed British Army officer so memorably played by Peter O'Toole in the 1962 film? That's the subject of this new biography that explores the extraordinary stories of both the man and the world that he inhabited.



### The Bletchley Girls

By Tessa Dunlop  
Hodder and Stoughton,  
£20, 352 pages, hardback

Bletchley Park, World War II. A specially selected team is hard at work attempting – and succeeding – to crack secret German and Japanese codes. Many of their number were women, even schoolgirls – and it is their remarkable first-hand stories that form the basis of this fascinating book. Their tales cover events within the operation and their lives during and after the war.



### The Edge of the World: How the North Sea Made Us Who We Are

By Michael Pye  
Viking, £25, 400 pages,  
hardback

We often think of the North Sea as merely a great, dark space between countries. Yet, as Michael Pye argues in this epic, entertaining book, it has long been a formative force acting on the nations around it, shaping everything from food and fashion to language and lifestyle.

## READ UP ON...

### 1916 REBELLION IN IRELAND

#### BEST FOR... AN OVERVIEW

#### 1916: the Easter Rising

By Tim Pat Coogan  
Phoenix, £8.99,  
224 pages, paperback



Almost a century ago, rebels in Ireland launched a six-day insurrection that aimed to establish an independent Irish republic. The uprising was quickly suppressed but its legacy was huge. This succinct book offers a valuable overview of the major characters and consequences.

#### BEST FOR... MORE IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS

#### Easter 1916: the Irish Rebellion

By Charles Townshend  
Penguin, £10.99,  
464 pages, paperback



For those looking to delve more deeply into the lives of the people behind the uprising, this is an excellent choice. It's detailed but accessible, and full of huge characters. If you want to take the story further still, the same author's follow-up book, *The Republic*, is also excellent.

#### BEST FOR... THE LEGACY

#### Dublin 1916: the Siege of the GPO

By Clair Wills  
Profile Books, £8.99,  
272 pages, paperback



Taking as its title and focal point the General Post Office in Dublin – principal site of the Easter Rising – this book vividly journeys inside the building during a crucial week in Ireland's history. The author also explores the significance, and commemoration of, the rebellion for subsequent generations.

## PAST MASTERS

Rock crystal skull



'Seal of God' from Dr John Dee's magic set



Set of Samurai armour



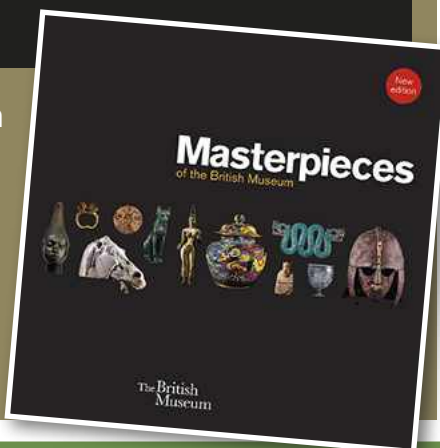
### SKULLS, SHIELDS, SAMURAI

Discover treasures from cultures ranging from Aztec to Zulu in this virtual tour of the British Museum

### Masterpieces of the British Museum

By JD Hill  
British Museum Press, £18.99,  
304 pages, paperback

Fancy a trip round the British Museum without leaving the comfort of your home? This book is your best bet: a visual tour of some of the highlights from its collections, including the 12th-century Lewis Chessman and some stunning Aztec jewellery.

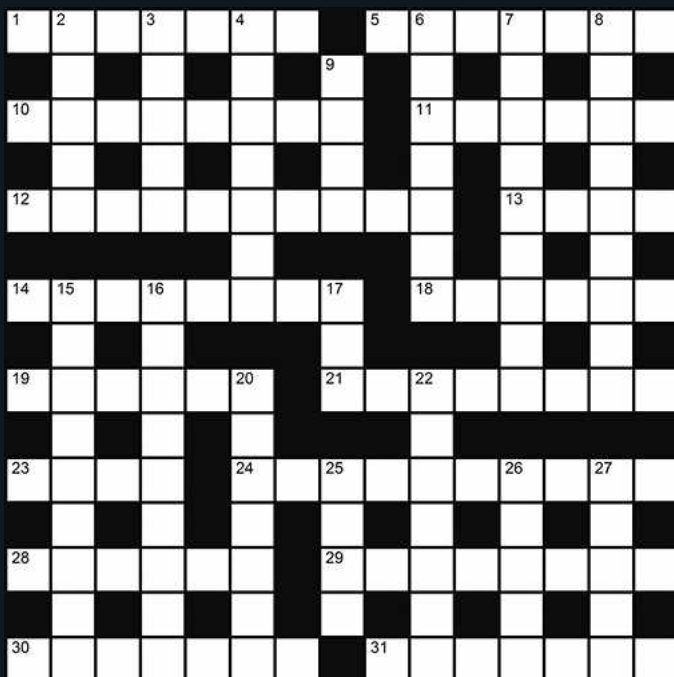




# CROSSWORD N° 12

You could be one of three prizewinners if your knowledge of history is up to scratch...

Set by Richard Smyth



## ACROSS

- 1/5** Remark allegedly made by Marie Antoinette, Queen of French King Louis XVI (3,4,3,4)  
**10** Oxfordshire town where an Augustinian priory was founded in the 12th century (8)  
**11** Spanish city conquered by the Romans in 193 BC (6)  
**12** Name of a European aristocratic family, later changed to Mountbatten (10)  
**13** Persian title, last held by Mohammad Reza Pahlavi until the Iranian Revolution, 1979 (4)  
**14** "For rigorous \_\_\_\_ seized my youth, and purged its faith, and trimmed its fire" – English poet Matthew Arnold, 1855 (8)  
**18** Ancient Syrian city, ravaged by an earthquake in 1138 (6)

- 19** Dopey character played by Spike Milligan in classic radio comedy *The Goon Show* (6)  
**21** Historic monuments built at Giza in Egypt (8)  
**23** The Second \_\_\_\_ War (1899-1902), South African conflict with British involvement (4)  
**24** Yorkshire castle in which the deposed King Richard II is said to have died (10)  
**28** Scottish city formerly known for its jute industry (6)  
**29** Former county town of Berkshire, now in Oxfordshire, on the River Thames (8)  
**30** Ill-fated wife of the Biblical King Ahab (7)  
**31** Royal dockyard on the River Medway (7)

## DOWN

- 2** Nickname of former first lady of Argentina Eva Perón (5)  
**3** Council of \_\_\_\_, major council held by the Roman Catholic church, 1545-1563 (5)  
**4** \_\_\_\_ Cordiale, Anglo-French alliance of 1904 (7)  
**6** Island in the West Indies, site of Nelson's Dockyard, named for the naval captain who was stationed here (7)  
**7** Roman arena also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre (9)  
**8** 1886 historical adventure novel by Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson (9)  
**9** Thomas \_\_\_\_ (1710-78), English composer best known for *Rule Britannia!* (4)  
**15** The fencing-off of common land since the 16th century, increased by Parliament in the 18th and 19th centuries (9)  
**16** Samuel Taylor \_\_\_\_ (1772-1834), Devonshire-born Romantic poet (9)  
**17** UK political party founded in 1981 by Roy Jenkins, David Owen, Bill Rodgers and Shirley Williams (3)  
**20** A Love \_\_\_\_, 1965 jazz album by John Coltrane (7)  
**22** \_\_\_\_ Prussia, alternative name for the Rhine Province created in 1822 (7)  
**25** Biblical patriarch (and boat-builder) (4)  
**26** Peter Mark \_\_\_\_ (1779-1869), compiled related words in his published Thesaurus (5)  
**27** Town in New South Wales, Australia, founded in 1879 (5)

## CHANCE TO WIN...

### Joan of Arc: a History

by Helen Castor  
 A gripping portrait of the teenage-girl-turned-warrior who became the saviour of France. Acclaimed historian Helen Castor does an excellent job scrutinising the myth of Joan of Arc. Published by Faber & Faber, £20.

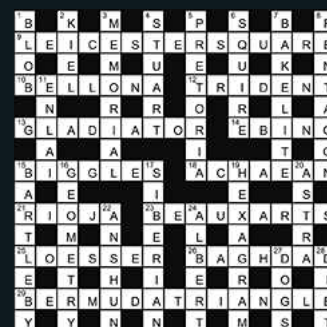


**BOOK WORTH £20 FOR THREE WINNERS**

## HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, January 2015 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **january2015@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 February 2015**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy see the box below.

## SOLUTION N° 10



## CROSSWORD COMPETITION TERMS & CONDITIONS

The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at [www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy).

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. The promotion is subject to the laws of England. Promoter: Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited



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ON SALE **2 FEBRUARY 2015**

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# PIRATES!

**MEET THE 17TH-CENTURY BUCCANEERS  
WHO RULED THE CARIBBEAN**



**ALSO NEXT MONTH...**

**WINSTON CHURCHILL** THE CHARGE OF THE  
LIGHT BRIGADE **BOUDICCA: THE CELTIC QUEEN**  
**WHO FOUGHT THE ROMANS** 1958 MUNICH  
AIR DISASTER **APOLLO 13** PHEIDIPPIDES: THE  
ORIGINAL MARATHON RUNNER **Q&A AND MUCH**

**HISTORY**  
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# A-Z of History

**Nige Tassell** takes a sideways look at history, from anarchists to zealots...



## ANTI-APARTHEID

Vilakazi Street, in the Orlando West district of Soweto in Johannesburg, is the only street to have produced two recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. Nelson Mandela, who lived at number 8115 prior to his incarceration (and for a short time afterwards), won the award in 1993, nine years after fellow Vilakazi resident Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

## ANARCHY

The Battle of the Anarchy was a conflict fought between England and Normandy between 1135 and 1154 for the control of the English throne. Not that the war was called that at the time – nor for more than 700 years afterwards. It didn't take this name until the late 19th century, when Victorian historians labelled this period 'The Anarchy' to reflect the apparent (and later disproved) lawlessness of the times.

## ANDORRA

In 1914, the small state wedged between France and Spain joined the many countries declaring war against Germany – although, boasting just ten part-time soldiers, the principality never actually took up arms. More notably, by not being a signatory to the Treaty of Versailles of 1919, they effectively remained at war with Germany throughout the inter-war period.

## ACROPOLIS

In 1822, during the Greek War of Independence, Turkish troops found themselves under siege at the Acropolis – the ancient citadel above Athens. Having run out of ammunition, the Turks started to strip the columns of the Parthenon for lead to turn into bullets. So eager were they not to see the destruction of such a significant building that the opposing Greeks called a temporary ceasefire so that they could supply the enemy with lead to make bullets to be fired on themselves.

## Anne Boleyn

The Tudors sentenced many of their enemies to death. Of those who were beheaded, only one – Henry VIII's second wife – wasn't the victim of an axe. Her demise came from the swinging of a sword, a weapon believed to have been chosen by the King because of its association with Arthurian legend and the notion of a rightful king.



## ATOM BOWL

It might sound in dubious taste but, on New Year's Day 1946, less than five months after the second atom bomb obliterated Nagasaki, US Marines organised an American football match in the Japanese city as a way of improving morale among their ranks. Played on a 'pitch' surrounded by flattened buildings and strewn with broken glass, it became known as the Atom Bowl.

## AVIGNON

Between 1309 and 1377, the city of Avignon in the south of France was the centre of the Catholic Church. Due to a dispute between Rome and the French crown, the recently elected Pope Clement V, a Frenchman, moved the papacy to his homeland. Six further popes (all from France) retained Avignon as their base before Pope Gregory XI restored the papacy to Rome after nearly 70 years away.

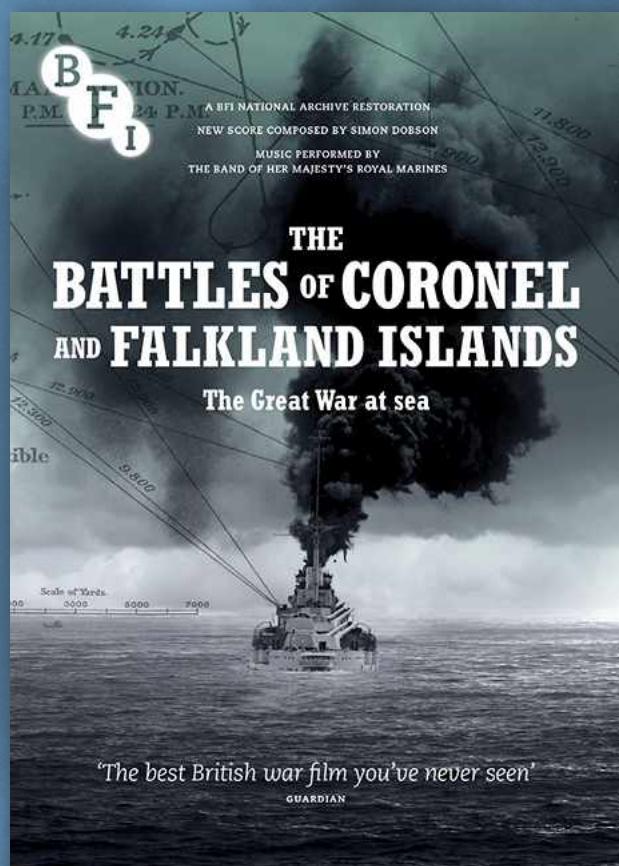
## ANTARCTICA AND AMUNDSEN

In December 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen led the first successful expedition to the South Pole. The tent left at the pole by his party hasn't been seen since his rival, Captain Scott, discovered it the following month. Because of subsequent ice flow, the tent's precise location is unknown – and will likely remain so, as it is estimated to now be buried under 17 metres of snowfall.





# FILMS OF REMEMBRANCE



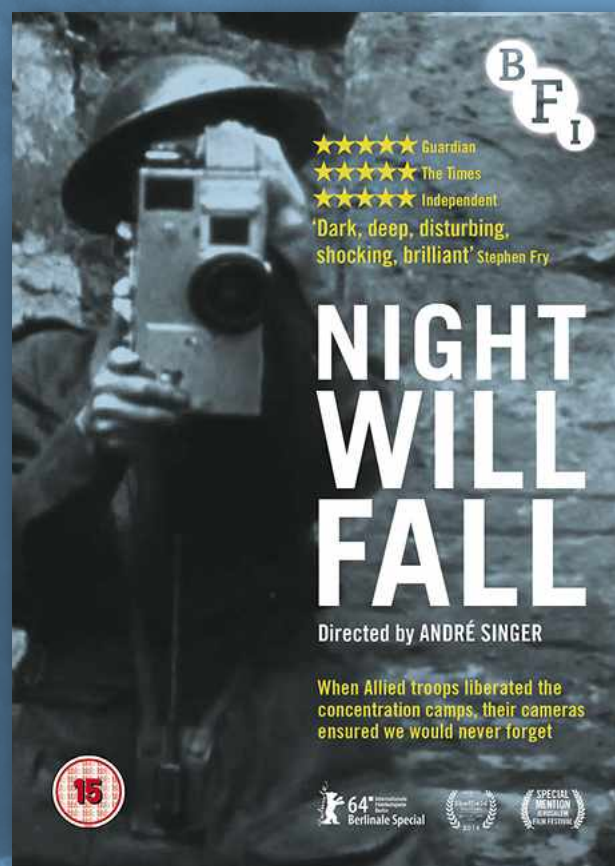
## THE BATTLES OF CORONEL AND FALKLANDS ISLANDS

Newly restored by the BFI National Archive, this stunning 1927 silent film reconstructs two of the key naval battles of World War One.

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1888

The Central News Office in London received a letter signed by 'Jack the Ripper'.



1926

A sheep found buried under 10 tons of coal was rescued and adopted as a mascot by the coal tippers at Swansea Docks.



THE TOP-HAT IN 1797.

The *Hatter's Gazette* reprints from an old journal, dated January 16th, 1797, the following amusing account of the wearing of the first silk hat in London:—"John Hetherington, haberdasher, of the Strand, was arraigned before the Lord Mayor yesterday on a charge of breach of the peace, and inciting to riot, and was required to give bonds in the sum of £500. It was in evidence that Mr. Hetherington, who is well connected, appeared on the public highway wearing upon his head what he called a silk hat (which was offered in evidence), a tall structure having a shiny lustre, and calculated to frighten timid people. As a matter

1797

A gentleman was arrested for breach of the peace after wearing the first top hat and causing several women to faint.



THE NOTTINGHAM EVENING

FACSIMILES OF "JACK THE RIPPER'S" LETTER AND POST CARD.

25 Sept 1988

Dear Boss  
I keep on hearing the police  
have caught me. but they wont fix  
me just yet. I have laughed when  
they look so clever and talk about  
being on the right track. That joke  
about Leather Apron gave me real

THE QUESTION OF HORSELESS CARRIAGES.—

At the Tunbridge Police-court, Mr. Walter Arnold, the owner of a horseless carriage, was summoned on four informations with reference to using horseless carriage on the highway. The first was for using a locomotive without a horse from the County Council, the second for having less than three persons in charge of the same, the third for going at a greater rate than two miles an hour, and the fourth for not having his name and address placed on the machine.—The evidence was that the carriage was going at the rate of eight miles an hour.—Mr. Cripps, who defended, contended that the machine was not one contemplated when the Locomotive Acts were passed, and said that in the first three informations had been used by Sir David

## SNEEP AS MASCOT

## Coal Tippers Adopt an Animal They Saved

The sheep which was found buried under ten tons of coal in a railway truck at Swansea Docks has been presented to the coal tippers by the animal's owner.

This is in recognition and appreciation of the humane manner in which they cared for and treated the exhausted animal.

When found it had apparently been in the truck six days, covered all the time by the coal.

The coal tipplers have decided to keep the animal as a mascot.

## NEWPORT-PARIS

## Sick Woman's Journey Motor and P

An aeroplane fitted as figured in a remarkable Newport (Mon.) to Parterday in the space of minutes.

The passenger, a sick

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